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COUNTRY LIFE

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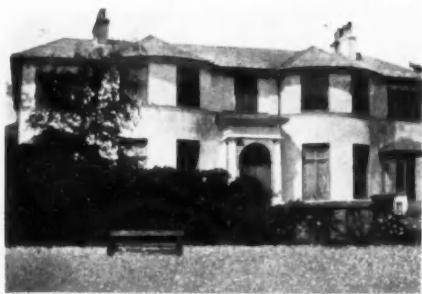
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(Knight, Frank & Rutley's advertisements continued on page iii)



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Over 500ft. up, with delightful outlook.

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Also a

Valuable Plot of building land of ONE ACRE.

Forming a fine site for the erection of another residence.

To be sold by Auction at the St. James's Estate Rooms, 6, ARLINGTON STREET, S.W.1, on Tuesday, 5th May next (unless previously sold), in One or Two Lots. Solicitors, Messrs. HANCOCK & WILLIS, 1, Verulam Buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C.1. Joint Auctioneers, SINDEN, TOMPKINS & KING, 26, Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon, and HAMPTON & SONS, 20, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

By order of the Trustees.

Healthy position with lovely views over the River Stour.

On the fringe of the Village and close to Station.

YACHTING. HUNTING. SHOOTING. GOLF.
STOUR LODGE, BRADFIELD, NEAR MANNINGTREE.

ESSEX

MEDIUM-SIZED FREEHOLD GEORGIAN RESIDENCE, approached by carriage drive, and containing (on only two floors) entrance hall, study, two handsome reception rooms, oak fitted library, eight bed and dressing rooms, two bathrooms, complete domestic offices.

Electric light, Co.'s water. Telephone.

Cottage. Chauffeur's room. Garage and Stabling.

WELL-SHADED PLEASURE GROUNDS, tennis and other lawns, etc., in all about **6½ ACRES.**

To be Sold by Auction, at the St. James's Estate Rooms, 6, Arlington Street, S.W.1, on TUESDAY, 5th MAY (unless previously Sold). Solicitors, Messrs. MORGAN & HARRISON, 51, Coleman Street, E.C.2. Auctioneers, HAMPTON & SONS, 20, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS

Facing south, on high ground in this very favourite and good social district.
EXCELLENT SPORTING FACILITIES. BEAUTIFUL VIEWS.
"THE ORCHARDS."

An exceptionally choice modern freehold residence containing quaint lounge hall, three reception rooms, billiards room, eight or ten bedrooms, two bathrooms, compact offices. Costly fittings. Central heating. Company's water. Electric light. Chauffeur's cottage. Garage and stabling. Gardens of unusual charm, including rose and kitchen gardens, orchard and paddock, in all over



5½ ACRES.

To be sold by Auction at the St. James's Estate Rooms, 6, ARLINGTON STREET, S.W.1, on Tuesday, 28th April next (unless previously sold). Solicitors, Messrs. G. and G. W. RANDS, Bank Chambers, St. Giles's Square, Northampton. Particulars from the Auctioneers, HAMPTON & SONS, 20, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

WEST SUSSEX

PRACTICALLY ADJOINING THE SOUTH DOWNS.

FOR SALE, IDEAL GEORGIAN HOUSE

of medium size and having the whole of its accommodation on two floors.

PERFECT SITUATION,

standing on a knoll on the outskirts of a small town and commanding a lovely view. The Property has been subject to a large outlay and is fitted with every modern convenience, including main services.

GARAGE FOR THREE. TWO COTTAGES. STABLING.

Four charming reception rooms with sun all day, twelve bedrooms, three bathrooms, fitted lavatory basins in bedrooms; central heating throughout; model domestic offices

LOVELY TIMBERED GROUNDS,

hard tennis court, terrace, paved rose and other gardens, lawns, etc., the whole extending to about

10 ACRES.

Highly recommended by the Sole Agents,

HAMPTON & SONS, 20, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

Offices : 20, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, S.W.1

Telephone No.:
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OSBORN & MERCER

MEMBERS OF THE CHARTERED SURVEYORS' AND AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTES.

Telegraphic Address:
Overbid-Piccy, London.

The Subject of an illustrated appreciative article in "Country Life."

A Unique XVIth Century Residence in Sussex

possessing infinite charm and character.

It stands high with wonderful Southernly views, and contains—

Three reception, ten bedrooms, three bathrooms; modern comforts, including Coy's electricity and water, etc.

Two Cottages.

Garage, Stabling, etc.

Picturesque old Oast House.

Paddocks, etc.



Lovely Old Gardens forming a Setting of Complete Harmony

Inspected by Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (16,474.)

Picturesque Old Dower House in Norfolk

SOME 200-300 YEARS OLD.

Well-placed, facing South, approached by a carriage drive with lodge at entrance, and containing: Four reception rooms, nine bedrooms, three bathrooms, usual offices.

Up to date, with lavatory basins in bedrooms, Coy's Electricity, Central Heating, etc.

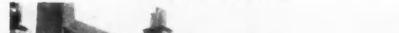
Two Garages and other buildings. Cottage, Pleasant Gardens with lawns for tennis, etc. Orchard.

Well-timbered Parklands of 25 acres

For Sale, by Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (16,392.)

BERKSHIRE

Delightful district, near good golf and under an hour from London.



This Picturesque Residence

occupies a choice position on high ground, facing due South, enjoying extensive views; and contains:

Three reception, seven bedrooms, two bathrooms. Co.'s water and gas, electric light and telephone.

Garage, stabling and outbuildings.

The exceptional grounds are quite a feature, and are nicely timbered; good tennis lawn, orchard, pasture and woodland.

£3,500 SIX ACRES

Inspected by Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (M.1,747.)

ABOUT TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS FROM LONDON
OCCUPYING A CHOICE SITUATION IN A DISTRICT NOTED FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL SCENERY.

A Charming Old-Fashioned Residence

TO BE LET FURNISHED OR MIGHT BE SOLD, TOGETHER WITH

ONE MILE OF FIRST-CLASS SALMON FISHING

The house contains about a dozen bedrooms enjoying Southernly aspect with extensive views, whilst it is surrounded by delightful gardens and grounds.

**STABLING, GARAGE, LODGE, SEVERAL COTTAGES.
100 ACRES**

Further particulars of the Agents, Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER.

GLOS-WILTS BORDERS

360ft. up with lovely views.



PICTURESQUE OLD TUDOR RESIDENCE

Lounge hall, three reception rooms, ten bedrooms, bathroom, usual offices.

Electric Light. Coy's Water

Ample stabling and garage accommodation.

Matured Gardens

studded with fine old trees. Pasture, woodland, etc.,

bounded by a trout stream.

£3,250 40 ACRES

More land available.

Agents, Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (14,610.)

HANTS-BERKS BORDERS

400ft. up, on gravel soil, with magnificent views over well-wooded, undulating country, and approached by a carriage drive.



Lounge hall, three reception, study, fourteen bedrooms, three bathrooms. MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT. CENTRAL HEATING, ETC. Stabling. Three Cottages. Garage.

Beautifully matured gardens, shaded by fine trees; pasture, etc.

For Sale with 24 Acres

Inspected by Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (16,434.)

SURREY

300ft. up, close to many well-known beauty spots, near good golf and about an hour from London. To be sold, a distinctly modern

Queen Anne Residence



Four reception, nine bed and dressing rooms, bathroom, etc. Company's Electric Light and Water. Central Heating.

Delightful gardens and grounds, woodland walks, etc.

COTTAGE

Agents, Messrs. OSBORN & MERCER. (16,329.)

Telephone No.:
Grosvenor 1553 (4 lines).

GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS

(ESTABLISHED 1778)

25, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1

And at
Hobart Place, Eaton Sq.
West Halkin St., Belgrave Sq.
45, Parliament St.,
Westminster S.W.

WONDERFUL POSITION 700 FEET UP

Views over 30 miles to the Winchester Downs and Goodwood
Station 3 miles. UNDER THE HOUR BY EXPRESS TO LONDON.



THIS DELIGHTFUL MODERN RESIDENCE, designed by architect of repute to make the most of the sunlight and the view, and the subject of a recent article in "The Ideal Home" Magazine, is replete with every modern luxury and convenience, and contains

Seven bed and dressing rooms, four bathrooms, three reception rooms, very light and airy domestic offices. MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT, MAIN WATER AND MODERN DRAINAGE. GARAGE FOR THREE CARS. CHAUFFEUR'S FLAT OVER. LONG DRIVE. Lovely wooded gardens and grounds. Sunk garden. Grass tennis lawn, in all about

15 ACRES, FOR SALE, FREEHOLD.

Inspected and thoroughly recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.1641.)

ADJOINING THE SUSSEX DOWNS

IN A HIGH AND PERFECTLY RURAL SITUATION.



TO BE SOLD.

A VERY WELL APPOINTED MODERATE-SIZED RESIDENCE (ten bedrooms, etc.), standing in extremely pretty and matured grounds, and having useful paddock adjoining.

THE OUTBUILDINGS ARE GOOD AND INCLUDE EXCELLENT STABLING, GOOD GARAGE AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION.

Personally inspected by the Owner's Agents, GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (A. 2447.)

On high ground facing South with pleasant views.
LONDON 30 MINUTES. STATION FEW MINUTES.

HERTFORDSHIRE

LONDON 30 MINUTES. STATION FEW MINUTES.



TO BE SOLD. This very picturesque Country House, and one of the most perfectly appointed within fifteen miles of Town, well away from any building encroachment and presenting the last word in labour-saving, luxury and comfort.

Eight bed and dressing rooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms; complete offices.

MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT, GAS, WATER AND DRAINAGE.

CENTRAL HEATING. LARGE GARAGE. HARD TENNIS COURT.

Exceedingly attractive gardens with rockery, water garden, pond and fountain, croquet lawn, kitchen garden and orchard.

1½ ACRES

All further particulars of GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (C.4659.)

OVERLOOKING CHOBHAM COMMON

2 MILES MAIN LINE STATION. LONDON ½ HOUR.



CLOSE TO THREE EXCELLENT GOLF COURSES.

A unusually well-equipped modern RESIDENCE, standing on sandy soil, facing south-west in a high and healthy position and delightfully secluded.

Lounge hall, three reception rooms, ten bed and dressing rooms (fitted basins), three bathrooms.

CENTRAL HEATING, MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER, MODERN DRAINAGE.

Garage for three cars with chauffeur's room and gardener's flat. Very attractive Gardens with tennis court, spacious lawns, etc. Paddock.

9½ ACRES. EXECUTORS' SALE.

Inspected and recommended by GEORGE TROLLOPE & SONS, 25, Mount Street, W.1. (A. 1154.)

Telephone :
Grosvenor 2252
(6 lines).
After Office Hours,
Livingstone 1066.

CONSTABLE & MAUDE

2, MOUNT STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1

And at
42, CASTLE STREET,
SHREWSBURY

ESSEX. IN A PERFECT SETTING

3 miles junction. 70 minutes express to London.



Approached by drive and surrounded by WELL-TIMBERED PARK WITH CRICKET GROUND.

The House, mainly on two floors, occupies an exceptionally sunny position and contains billiard and four reception, two bath, nine principal and five servants' bed rooms. LODGE. COTTAGES.

90 ACRES.

Executors' Sale.—Details from : CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

Within easy reach of SUNNINGDALE, ST. GEORGE'S HILL AND WOKING



Frequent fast trains to Town in about 40 minutes.
CHAWORTH HOUSE, OTTERSASH

Compact, well-planned and in practically perfect order. MAINLY ON TWO FLOORS. Billiard and three reception, three bath, twelve bedrooms. COTTAGE. GARAGE. OUTBUILDINGS.

Main services. Central heating. Constant hot water. Residence in the centre of beautifully timbered grounds of about

13 ACRES. FOR SALE.

Sole Agents: CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

HIGH UP. GRAND VIEWS. SUSSEX.



Hall, three fine reception, two bath, seven bedrooms, usual offices. COTTAGE. GARAGE.

11 ACRES.

Main water. Electric light and power. Up to date Excellent order.

FOR SALE.

CONSTABLE & MAUDE, 2, Mount Street, W.1.

Telephones :
Grosvenor 313: (3 lines).

CURTIS & HENSON LONDON

Telegrams :
"Submit, London."

COMMANDING EXTENSIVE AND BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OVER THE ASHDOWN FOREST

LONDON 35 MILES BY ROAD.

STANDING 600FT. ABOVE SEA-LEVEL.

ATTRACTIVE REPLICA OF A SUSSEX YEOMAN'S HOUSE, POSSESSING UP-TO-DATE CONVENiences AND IN FIRST-CLASS CONDITION THROUGHOUT.

TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, ANTE-ROOM, CLOAK-ROOM, EIGHT BEDROOMS, THREE BATHROOMS, COMPLETE OFFICES, ELECTRIC LIGHT, CENTRAL HEATING.



DELIGHTFUL AND SECLUDED GROUNDS, WELL MATURED, WITH FORMAL AND WILD GARDENS MERGING INTO NATURAL WOODLAND WITH BANKS OF RHODODENDRONS.

GARAGE FOR TWO CARS, WITH WASHDOWN.

GARDENER'S COTTAGE. HARD TENNIS COURT.
KITCHEN GARDEN AND PADDOCK.

FOR SALE AT A REDUCED PRICE WITH 18 ACRES

Inspected and confidently recommended by CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.I.

QUEEN ANNE REPLICA IN KENT.—Amidst the unspoilt Weald, seventeen miles from the coast. Exceptionally well built. Mellowed red brick and attractive dormer windows. Seccluded position, fine views, long drive, lodge, three reception, eleven bedrooms, three baths; main water and electricity, radiators; splendid order; unique Badminton court; gardens of great beauty; garage for three cars; woodland dell, thousands of bulbs in season, small paddock, lawns, ornamental timber. Twelve acres. Hunting and golf. Easy reach of quaint old market town. Quick Sale imperative. Should be seen at once. (13,556.)

FIRST-RATE HUNTING WITH BEAUFORT AND V.W.H.



AT THE FOOT OF THE SOUTH DOWNS.—Dignified Georgian Residence, approached by long carriage drive through undulating parkland. Four reception rooms, cloak room, twelve bedrooms, four bathrooms, ample domestic offices. Central heating. Main electric light. Good water supply. Stabling with loose boxes for seven. Garages for four, farriers. Three cottages. Old-world grounds with spreading lawns and fine trees. Walled kitchen garden and park-like pastures. Shooting over 2,000 acres might be had. To be let on lease. (7,639.)

PERFECTLY UNIQUE PROPERTY AN OLD COTSWOLD FARM HOUSE

RECENTLY ADDED TO WITHOUT INTERFERING WITH ITS ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE.

Old stone mullions and dormer windows, stone-tiled roof, picturesque gables, three reception, nine bedrooms, three baths. Electric light; main water. New drainage. Stabling for fourteen hunters. Garage, outbuildings. Matured grounds, large pond.

40 ACRES OF RICH PASTURE

FINE VIEWS TO THE SOUTH.

Two cottages might be had and possibly additional land.

Moderate Price Asked.

Polo and golf at hand.

CURTIS & HENSON. (14,271.)

NEARLY 3,000 ACRES SHOOTING WITH HEAVY BAGS.—Between Newbury and Basingstoke, overlooking beautiful downs. Fine old Mansion of the Georgian period in magnificent park; two drives and avenue approach; greensand soil; splendid order; FIVE RECEPTION, 25 BEDROOMS, SIX BATHROOMS, electric light, central heating, water by gravity; stabling for several horses, garage for seven cars, laundry, several cottages. Lovely gardens, hard court, trout lakes. On lease at reasonable rental. (14,001.)

ON FINE SANDY RIDGE CLOSE TO PENSHURST.—MOST PICTURESQUE HOUSE, erected four years ago in typical Kentish farmhouse style, half-timbered with mullioned windows. Magnificent position overlooking valley, with vistas of distant forest. Long drive. Three reception, twelve bedrooms, three baths. All main services. Garage for four cars. Exceedingly well planned gardens. Hard court. Kitchen and formal gardens. Mown grass walk to beautiful woodland. Two picturesque cottages. Park-like grassland. 45 ACRES. Never for sale before. Recommended by Sole Agents. (15,569.)

HALF-AN-HOUR FROM LONDON BRIDGE.—Magnificent position on Surrey Hills; 600ft., with beautiful views. Exceedingly picturesque HOUSE, erected by famous architect in style of Sussex farmhouse; perfect privacy; entirely on two floors. Three reception, billiard room, twelve bedrooms, five bathrooms; all main services, central heating, basins in all bedrooms; garage for three cars; unique pleasure grounds, rock garden, tennis court, kitchen garden, woodland and meadowland. Great sacrifice with fifteen acres. No reasonable offer refused. Urgent sale necessary. First-class golf. (15,715.)

A SYLVAN SETTING AMIDST SCOTCH FIRS AND SILVER BIRCH

UNDER THREE MILES FROM SLOUGH AND GERRARDS CROSS STATIONS, WHENCE LONDON CAN BE REACHED IN 30 MINS.

Entirely secluded in Rural Buckinghamshire, on gravel soil.



Delightful grounds, inexpensive to maintain, with spreading lawns, wild garden and woodlands interspersed with banks of rhododendrons and heather.

IN ALL ABOUT NINE ACRES. JUST IN THE MARKET FOR SALE

THREE FIRST-CLASS GOLF COURSES IN THE VICINITY

Illustrated particulars and further photographs may be obtained from the Sole Agents, CURTIS & HENSON, 5, Mount Street, W.I. (13,862.)

HALL; DRAWING-ROOM; "OLD HALL" (A ROOM 28FT. BY 14FT.), MAKING AN EXCELLENT LOUNGE-DANCE ROOM; STUDY; DINING-ROOM; COMPACT DOMESTIC OFFICES; TEN BED AND DRESSING ROOMS AND THREE BATHROOMS.

ALL THE PRINCIPAL RECEPTION AND BED ROOMS FACE SOUTH AND ENJOY THE MAXIMUM OF SUNSHINE.

Main water. Electric light and power. Central heating.

GARAGE FOR TWO CARS. HARD TENNIS COURT.

14, MOUNT STREET,
GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.I.

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CHARTERED SURVEYORS, LAND AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS

Telephone :
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600 FEET UP ON THE CHILTERN HILLS WITH SUPERB VIEWS



Under an hour from City and West End.
Glorious country. Facing due South.
**BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED MODERN
HOUSE**

in faultless order, up to date in every detail. Radiators throughout. Hot and cold water to all bedrooms.

Main water and electricity.

Lounge Hall, three reception rooms, eleven bed and dressing rooms, three bathrooms.

GARAGE FOR SEVERAL CARS.

TWO COTTAGES.

LOVELY PLEASURE GROUNDS
designed by Miss Gertrude Jekyll. Hard tennis court. Enclosed fruit and kitchen gardens with glass houses. Valuable orchard and woods.

20 ACRES

FOR SALE privately or by AUCTION later.
Sole Agents, WILSON & CO., 14, Mount Street, W.I.



AMIDST PERFECT SUSSEX SCENERY

High up on sand subsoil, near first-class Golf Course. An hour from London. Easy reach of the Coast.

A COUNTRY HOUSE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHARACTER SURROUNDED BY GRANDLY TIMBERED PARK.

Fourteen bedrooms, four bathrooms, four reception rooms, lavatory basins in all bedrooms. Radiators throughout.

Very complete with all necessary buildings.

SIX COTTAGES.

Finely timbered grounds, with swimming pool, hard tennis court and lovely old-walled garden.

NEARLY 100 ACRES. FOR SALE AT A LOW PRICE

Recommended as one of the choicest small estates now available in the Home Counties.
Sole Agents, WILSON & CO., 14, Mount Street, W.I.

LOVELY QUEEN ANNE HOUSE IN SPORTING PART OF BUCKS

occupying a magnificent position 600 ft. above sea level
AMIDST GLORIOUS ROLLING COUNTRY AND FINE BEECH WOODS.

Fourteen bedrooms, three bathrooms, billiard room; period paneling in three reception rooms; main electric light and water; central heating.

STABLING.

FARMERY AND OUTBUILDINGS.

DELIGHTFUL OLD GARDENS.

with many fine specimen trees.

ABOUT 100 ACRES

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JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK LONDON (Telephone: Regent 0912 (3 lines)), RUGBY, OXFORD AND BIRMINGHAM

44, ST. JAMES'S PLACE,
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16, KING EDWARD ST.,
OXFORD.
AND CHIPPING NORTON

SUSSEX

400ft. up, on a southern slope with magnificent views.



A MOST ATTRACTIVE XVITH CENTURY RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER, on a light sandy soil and in rural surroundings. Hall, three reception rooms, eight bedrooms, three bathrooms.

Main Electric Light and Water.

STABLING, GARAGE AND TWO COTTAGES.

OAST HOUSE, forming attractive garden room.

PICTURESQUE GARDENS with tennis court; ORCHARDS and PADDOCKS; in all about

EIGHT ACRES

FOR SALE AT A MODERATE PRICE.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 8654.)

DORSET



ERECTED 1700.

THIS BEAUTIFUL STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE; 400ft. up; southern aspect; views of Downs; greensand soil; deer park; rural surroundings. Four sitting rooms, ten to eleven bed and dressing rooms, three bathrooms, servants' hall.

Electric Light, Central Heating.

STABLING AND GARAGE.

Mill Farm House and five cottages. Stabbing and Garage.

LOVELY GROUNDS; TROUT LAKE; SPLENDID WOODLANDS; RICH PASTURE, etc.; total area

ABOUT 210 ACRES.

PRICE £13,000.

Inspected and recommended by Owner's Agents, JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 12,130.)

BERKSHIRE

An ideal Miniature Estate or Pleasure Farm for sale at reduced price.



THIS PICTURESQUE RESIDENCE OF THE TUDOR PERIOD, containing three reception rooms, five bedrooms and bathroom.

ATTRACTIVE SMALL GROUNDS.

EXCELLENT BUILDINGS.

PAIR OF QUEEN ANNE COTTAGES.

ENCLOSURE OF RICH PASTURE LAND on a gentle southern slope, and extending in all to about

30 ACRES.

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, 44, St. James's Place, S.W.1. (L.R. 14,577.)

DEVON AND S. & W. COUNTIES
THE ONLY COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED REGISTER.

Price 2/6.

SELECTED LISTS FREE.

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(Est. 1884.) EXETER.

JERSEY.—FOR SALE, £5,000, FREEHOLD.—Exceptional opportunity, in very sheltered position East Coast bay, four miles from town, 150yds. back from sea on 250yds. frontage; site two acres. Modern one-storey HOUSE; three reception, six bed, study, sunroom, kitchen and offices, bath, indoor and outdoor sanitation, basins (h. and c.) in all bedrooms; detached building two rooms; electric light and pumping plant. Aerogen gas plant, spring water; garage two cars with outbuildings and five-room cottage.—RICHARDSON & SON, Advocates, Royal Court Chambers, St. Heller, Jersey.

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AND SOUTHERN COUNTIES

including
SOUTHAMPTON AND NEW FOREST DISTRICTS.

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ONE OF THE BEST HUNTING CENTRES IN ENGLAND

DORSET—SOMERSET BORDER COUNTRY.

ON THE SUMMIT OF A HILL FACING SOUTH WITH VIEWS FOR 30/40 MILES.

THIS FINE MODERN RESIDENCE BUILT REGARDLESS OF EXPENSE and particularly well appointed in every detail, is approached by a long drive with lodge entrance, and contains: Hall, three large reception rooms, study, twelve bedrooms, two bathrooms, model domestic offices.

ELECTRIC LIGHT, CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT, SPRING WATER SUPPLY. Stabling for seven hunters, groom's rooms, two cottages and lodge.

INEXPENSIVE GARDEN, hard tennis court, grassland and woodland, including a well-known fox covert.



IN ALL ABOUT 40 ACRES.

TO BE SOLD FREEHOLD.

Recommended from personal inspection by JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. Telephone: Mayfair 6341. (72,449.)

A.D. 1562

LOSELEY PARK, GUILDFORD

THIS RENOWNED
ELIZABETHAN MANSION
IN THE
CENTRE OF 2,000 ACRES.



TO BE LET
ON LEASE, FURNISHED
(or probably partly furnished),
EITHER WITH OR WITHOUT
FIRST-RATE SHOOTING
OVER THE ESTATE.

Apply JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (2,254.)

CENTRE OF THE OLD SURREY COUNTRY

IN REAL COUNTRY RATHER "OFF THE MAP" BUT ONLY 40 MINUTES TO THE CITY.

BEAUTIFUL ORIGINAL EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE IN A PARK OF 32 ACRES.



Facing full South on sandy loam soil.

ALL ON TWO FLOORS.
Good hall. Four reception.
Twelve bedrooms. Four Bathrooms. Electric light.
Central heating. Main water.

Hard tennis court.
Lovely old-world garden.

FREEHOLD FOR
SALE.



Very highly recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1. (20,659.)

TO BE SOLD

SUSSEX

550FT. UP, COMMANDING LOVELY PANORAMIC VIEWS OVER DELIGHTFUL UNDULATING COUNTRY.

Two miles from a Station and seven from Tunbridge Wells.

Hunting with the ERIDGE.

Close to Golf Courses.

THIS EXCEPTIONALLY
ATTRACTIVE ESTATE,

comprising a

Picturesque RESIDENCE in the Tudor style, the original part dating from the XVIIth Century, standing high on a Southern slope, surrounded by a beautifully timbered and undulating Park; in all nearly

115 ACRES.

Approached by two carriage drives, one with Lodge entrance.



Fifteen bed and dressing, three bath, fine hall and four reception rooms. Main electric light, power and water. Central heating. First rate stabling and garages for several cars. Eleven cottages.

Hard tennis court and two grass courts. Beautifully laid-out pleasure grounds, woodland walks and two ornamental lakes with boathouses, kitchen garden and range of glass. Model farmery and buildings for pedigree herd and Home farm.

The whole Estate is in perfect order.

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184. BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.3 KENS. 0855.

PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE MENDIPS.
ONE OF THE MOST CHARMING PLACES IN THE MARKET

8 MILES FROM THE SEA



BEAUTIFUL STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE IN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT REPAIR.

OVER £6,000 SPENT ON PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS.
Entrance and inner halls, four fine reception rooms, twelve bed and dressing rooms, two bathrooms.

Co.'s water; main electric light, central heating. Splendid garage, four cars. Stabling. Superior cottage.

REALLY LOVELY GARDENS. VERY FINE HARD COURT.

WONDERFUL ROCKERIES WITH WATER POOLS.

PARK AND WOODLAND. 40 ACRES

GOLF. HUNTING. FISHING. FREEHOLD £6,500.

Strongly recommended from personal inspection.—BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3.

KENT COAST. NEAR SANDWICH LINKS



BEAUTIFUL LITTLE COUNTRY PLACE.

Nice hall, three reception, five bed, two baths (one cast over £100); all tiled with special shower. Stabling. Garage. Main Water. Electric light.

ALL IN FIRST CLASS REPAIR.

CHARMING GARDENS AND PADDOCKS.

6 ACRES. FREEHOLD ONLY £1,975.

Inspected and strongly recommended.

BENTALL, HORSLEY & BALDRY, 184, Brompton Road, S.W.3.

AN ASTOUNDING OFFER IN WEST SUSSEX

TREMENDOUS REDUCTION.

TUDOR GEM NEAR GUILDFORD.

I HOUR LONDON.

Full of oak; three reception, nine bed and dressing rooms, three bathrooms; central heating, electric light. Every convenience. Perfect order.

Three cottages. Lovely oak barn. Stabling. Garage.

LOVELY OLD GARDENS AND 60 ACRES.

FIRST OFFER OF £5,000 TAKEN

EXCEPTIONAL CHANCE.

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CHARMING OLD-FASHIONED RESIDENCE in perfect order; lounge hall, three reception rooms, billiards room, eight bed and dressing rooms, two modern tiled bathrooms; main electric light; main water; excellent stabling; garage, cottage.

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FASCINATING LITTLE TUDOR GEM,
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Main hall and staircase, two reception, five bed, bath. Main services. Garage.

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GREAT BARGAIN.**

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COTSWOLDS (450ft. above sea level on gravel soil).

STONE-BUILT COTSWOLD RESIDENCE.

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LOVELY GROUNDS. 2 tennis courts, clipped yew hedges, lily pool, walled kitchen garden and excellent pasture.

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CHARMING old stone-built FREEHOLD RESIDENCE, in picturesque village, 1½ miles station, 5 miles good town.

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Stabling for 11 hunters and appropriate outbuildings.

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MODERN FREEHOLD RESIDENCE, in picked position, on high ground, commanding magnificent views.

Lounge hall, 3 reception, 6 principal bedrooms, 2 bath, staff rooms and bathroom; 6 fitted basins.

Co.'s electric light and power; excellent water, or Co.'s available; modern drainage.

Heated garage (2 cars); other outbuildings.

Picturesque lodge.

CHARMING GARDENS AND GROUNDS, with 2 grass tennis courts, hard court, kitchen gardens, orchard and 2 paddocks, in all nearly

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A "COUNTRY ESTATE" on a small scale near old-world village and on the verge of beautiful open country.

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Long carriage drive approach. Lounge hall, fine double drawing room, dining room, nine bed and dressing rooms, three bathrooms, splendid offices with maids' sitting room.

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The type of property so much in demand but so difficult to secure within a similar radius of London.

IF DESIRED, THE HOUSE WITH THE GARDENS WOULD BE SOLD SEPARATELY.

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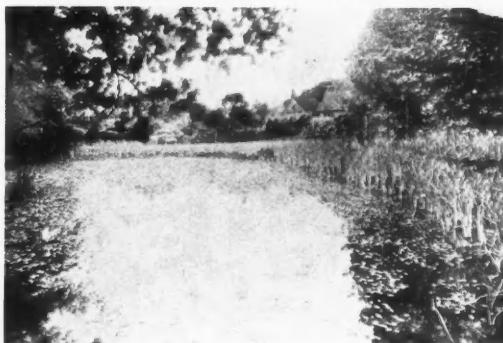
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THREE RECEPTION ROOMS.Electric Light, Central Heating,
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Delightful inexpensive gardens,
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NINE BED, TWO BATH, FOUR
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Central Heating,
GARAGES.TWO EXCELLENT COTTAGES,
DELIGHTFUL WALLED
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GROUNDS,
in all about
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CO.'S WATER, ELECTRIC LIGHT, GAS, CENTRAL HEATING,
GARAGE (TWO CARS), with chauffeur's accommodation over.

LOVELY OLD-WORLD GARDEN, ORCHARD, STREAM AND MEADOWLAND.

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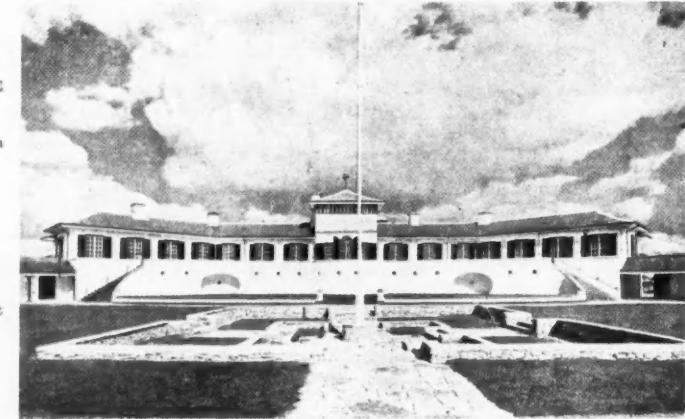


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Private embankment and promenade with
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WELL LAID-OUT PLEASURE GARDENS AND GROUNDS
the whole extending to an area of about

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Eight principal bedrooms, two dressing rooms, maids' bedrooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms, servants' hall, housekeeper's room, good domestic offices.

**GARAGE FOR TWO CARS, STABLING
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(chauffeur's cottage can be had by arrangement); small greenhouse, cart and wood sheds.



ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT.

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Delightful gardens and grounds, two tennis courts, lawns, kitchen garden, paddock, the whole covering an area of about

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THE RESIDENCE OCCUPIES AN UNIQUE SITUATION, FACING SOUTH. COMMANDING MAGNIFICENT VIEWS.

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VALUABLE WOODLANDS, LODGES, SEVERAL COTTAGES.		

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EIGHT BEDROOMS, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BATHROOMS.
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GARAGE. STABLING. COTTAGES. OAST HOUSE.
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Perfectly restored.

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ADDITIONAL BILLIARD ROOM OR STUDIO IN OLD OAK.

2½ ACRES OF WOODLAND. 5½ ACRES IN ALL.
RECENTLY HAD OVER £1,000 SPENT ON IT.

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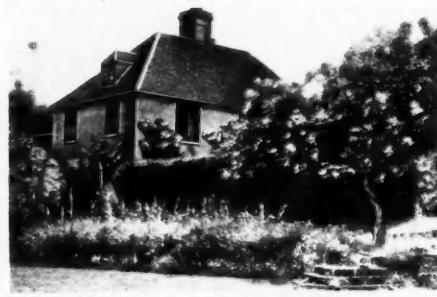
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All communications should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, "COUNTRY LIFE," Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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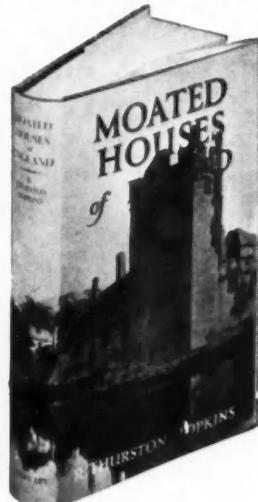
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CRUFT'S KENNEL NOTES

PEOPLE looking at the photograph published on this page to-day will probably form mixed impressions about it. Experienced breeders who remember what wire fox-terriers looked like in the opening years of this century will find many points to admire in Winkley Saucy Boy, who is the property of Miss M. H. Baldwin, Winkley Hall, Whalley, Lancashire, a member of Cruft's Dog Show Society. They will note his dead straight front, his short back and apparently sturdy quarters. He also seems to have got plenty of ribs. One is not surprised to learn that he is a winner of first prizes and has been reserve for the challenge certificate at Blackpool and the Wire Fox Terrier Association Show. A dog that can be placed second in his sex at important shows has to be something out of the common.

There are plenty of others who are highly critical of wire fox-terriers, insisting that they look wooden and have a boxy appearance. Perhaps it has never occurred to these gentlemen to run their hands over one of the wires, or indeed, of any wire-haired terrier. If they did that they would find that they are constructed on the same lines as smooth dogs and that the manner in which they are trimmed has a good deal to do with their appearance. Perhaps their trimming does make their fronts appear unnaturally straight. They do not seem to have any feet, but the feet are there if you handle them.

There is no doubt that in all the wire breeds art supplements nature, and so long as it does not deceive a judge one is disposed to justify it. A wire dog that has not been trimmed is often a sorry sight. We have sometimes experienced the shock of seeing champions in the rough before they have received the attention that is necessary to fit them to go into the show-ring. There are, of course, people who say: "Why not leave nature alone?" If they can really see beauty in an untrimmed wire terrier that is smothered in a heavy coat, it is difficult to discuss the matter with them because our standards of perfection are entirely different and we have no common ground for debate.

The untrimmed dog is more or less formless. Let him have proper attention at the hands of an expert, and we see his beautiful neck, well laid shoulders and short, smart body. He then looks a little gentleman instead of a plebeian. Five and

twenty years ago or thereabouts, this question of trimming threatened to check the progress of all the wire breeds. Although it was contrary to the regulations of the Kennel Club, we knew that it was done to a considerable extent. If dogs had not been trimmed they would have only been in show condition for a very small part of the year. The whole question bristled with anomalies, mainly because the expert could conceal his handiwork and avoid incurring the censure of the governing body, while the amateur sometimes bungled the business so badly that his efforts could not be overlooked. Consequently, the less serious offender sometimes managed to get himself into trouble while the other escaped.

Some of the disputants contended that it should be as easy to breed for a short hard coat as for any other point, but the terrier men made it apparent that this would be a very long process even if it could be reached in the end, and the outcome was that the Kennel Club sanctioned trimming in such breeds as desired it. Trimming will not make a soft coat into a hard one, and it will not conceal anatomical defects from a judge who is skilled at his work. The rapid advance that was made subsequently by wire-haired fox-terriers is evidence that the policy of the Kennel Club was approved generally.

In the early days of shows, down to the beginning of the present century, the smooth variety was overwhelmingly the more popular of the two, and few anticipated that the wires would ever pass it as they have done since. For some years more wire-haired fox-terriers have been registered at the Kennel Club than any other breed. Last year they were even an improvement on 1934, but for the first time they were passed by cocker spaniels. However, the fact that the cockers have got their noses in front does not mean that the wires are any the less popular. They are still general favourites, as anyone may see who visits a show. Their entries may not, perhaps, be quite as large as some of the others because of the difficulty of getting them in good coat at exactly the right time, but the rings in which they are judged always attract one of the biggest crowds of sightseers.

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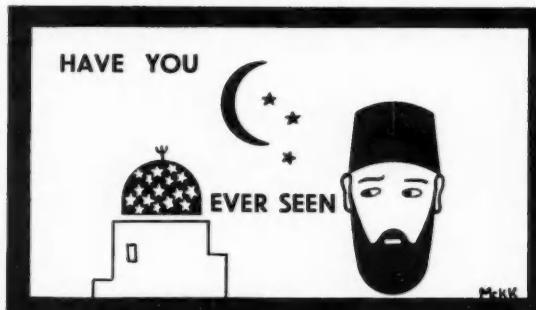
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AN ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC HOUSES

A SCHEME for preserving historic country houses, their grounds and contents, has been set on foot by the National Trust, somewhat on the lines of the recommendations made from time to time during the last two years by this paper and by owners in these pages. At a reception to members of the Trust held last week, Lord Zetland announced the broad lines along which the Trust was working. Mr. Winston Churchill and Lord Lothian are among those who have recently emphasised the importance of the place occupied in the nation's life by those houses built and occupied by the families that created Britain as we know it to-day. Readers of COUNTRY LIFE, who for close on forty years have seen the inexhaustible resources of architecture, gardens, and contents of these houses illustrated week by week, need no reminding on this subject, nor of the fact that these precious creations are being steadily bled to death by the present scale of taxation on the incomes required for their support. Although few of the greater English homes, of historic and artistic importance, have yet been dispersed, it is doubtful if any can survive more than two, many not more than one, further imposition of succession duties on their owner's resources. Within the next decade or so, unless steps are taken quickly, it is inevitable that a large proportion of these places will either have to be sold up entirely, or their more important contents distributed, while their surroundings will "go back," or be sold for breaking up and development. On every score—their epitomising of national and local history, the vitality their existence gives to local life, the coherence extended to the countryside by parks and estates

—it would be a profound national misfortune if the present disruptive process were permitted to continue unchecked.

Lord Zetland, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Trust, has announced—although, naturally he could not guarantee any action by the Government—that the Departments concerned are aware of the Trust's aims and regard them with sympathy. A committee has now been formed consisting of representative owners and of representatives of the Trust to form an association of country house owners. The association, it is proposed, shall compile a list of country houses that are of sufficient historic or architectural importance to receive the approval as such of the Office of Works ; arrange with their owners for a reasonable degree of access—say, fifty days a year—for the public in return for an entrance fee ; to advertise these facilities ; and to form an endowment fund from a percentage on the entrance fees and from other sources for the repair of necessitous buildings. Further, the association will endeavour to obtain relief for the owners of such places from burdens of taxation. Lord Zetland suggested that the surest means of permanent preservation is by transferring the property outright to the National Trust, which would, if desired, let it back to the owner and his heirs on a 999 years' lease.

Most owners will agree that the National Trust is the right body to make this move, and that an organisation similar to *La Demeure Historique*, the work of which will be described in COUNTRY LIFE next week by the Duc de Noailles, will be useful both to themselves and the public. They will, however, naturally want further information on a good many points, and the Trust is equally anxious that the association shall be able to obtain specific reliefs, such as the entire exemption from death duties of places shown to the public under the scheme so long as they are kept intact and maintained. Also it is proposed that application should be made for exemption from death duties of trust funds made over to the National Trust for the upkeep of properties in the scheme.

This last proposal approximates to the suggestion made recently in these pages for "tax-free trust funds," by which a capital sum, producing the agreed cost of upkeep of a house and its grounds, should be free of income tax and death duties so long as the place was kept together and opened to the public. The National Trust's suggestion is that the capital should be made over to the Trust, which would duly spend the income for this specific purpose. What would happen if an owner had to sell a property so endowed is not yet clear. Similarly, while there are a number of buildings that their owners would be prepared to make over to the National Trust, not many people are as yet prepared to make over their homes even in return for a lease resembling the feudal tenure of a castle from the Crown "by service of a rose at midsummer." In point of fact, historic properties are already assessed for death duties on very generous terms, and their contents exempted entirely as heirlooms so long as they are not sold. What is needed by owners, and needed urgently, is more *income* with which to defray the extraordinary costs of upkeep. Even assuming an annual revenue from a sum made over in trust for upkeep, and some revenue from entrance fees (sufficient, perhaps, to pay a guide and for cleaning), the owner of a large place is faced frequently with considerable expenditure on renewals—roofs need overhauling, external painting has to be done, the drive has to be renewed, a terrace wall falls and has to be re-built. These are the kind of things that a trust fund is unlikely to be adequate to deal with, and which must be paid for out of personal income, yet often cannot be nowadays owing to taxation. The whole scheme is aimed at keeping houses alive as homes, not preserving them as museums. If this is to be done, the inhabitants must be able to afford to live in them, and upkeep expenses are not enough. An allowance free from income tax for "custodians" of national possessions should be among the primary objectives of the new association, included among its initial requirements rather than held over "for further consideration"—when it may well be too late.

* * * It is particularly requested that no permission to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted, except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.



COUNTRY NOTES

THE KING SPEAKS

THE KING'S BROADCAST proved fully worthy of the eager and universal interest with which it had been anticipated. King George set the highest possible standard, alike in manner and matter, in his Christmas broadcasts to the Empire, and King Edward VIII has lived up to it. There was the same admirably clear delivery, deliberate and yet entirely natural, the same feeling of simplicity and obvious sincerity, the same intuitive knowledge of what was in the minds of his millions of hearers. There is a personal quality about a broadcast message to which no written one can attain, and no writing, however skilful, could have conveyed so directly and so movingly the King's affection for his father and mother and his gratitude for the universal sympathy of his subjects, alike for his own loss and in the heavy responsibilities to which he has succeeded. Many of the King's hearers may perhaps have wished that he had said a little more of himself, but it was an instinct both natural and touching that made him give the greater part of his speech to his father, and the few words in which he spoke of himself struck, if it may be said with respect, exactly the right note. To adapt His Majesty's own words, he is still "better known to most of us as the Prince of Wales," but nothing could have made us so fully realise that he is now our King as the fine, dignified and unaffected words in which he spoke to his people and devoted himself to their service.

THE NEW TITHE PLAN

IT has always been obvious that the Report of the Royal Commission on Tithe Rent-charge, when it appeared, was not likely to be hailed with a chorus of universal approval. Unpopularity is always the fate of imposed or dictated compromises, and though those who are less directly concerned will probably think the Commission's compromise a reasonable one, those who are compelled to accept it may well think otherwise. It need be no surprise, therefore, that the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty should already be pointing out that the total losses in net income to the Church under the majority recommendations would amount to £410,000 yearly (representing on a 3 per cent. basis a capital sum of £13,500,000), or that the National Tithe-payers' Association should profess themselves disappointed and complain that they had expected a greater reduction in the annual payment and a shorter time for the extinction of their liabilities. So far as the Government are concerned, the chief opposition their Bill will have to face will probably be based on the undoubted fact that it will reduce the income of the rural clergy (in some cases by 20 per cent.), and upon the secular objection to the State assuming a new annual obligation capitalised at a "globular" sum of £2,000,000, to be set aside "to be used at the discretion of the Church authorities to mitigate the hardships which would otherwise be suffered by the poorer clergy." Another more general consideration is the inherent

uncertainty of any sixty-year plan. The existing compromise of 1925 broke down in less than a decade. What guarantee is there, it will be asked, that the new plan will last for two whole generations?

THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

THE Government will no doubt meet these and other objections by maintaining generally that the Commission's scheme is a reasonable compromise and furnishes a sensible and satisfactory termination of a long and unprofitable controversy. Parliament and the country are certainly convinced that the present tithe law is obsolete and full of anomalies, and that social and economic conditions have changed so much in the past century that the time has come for the extinction of an unsatisfactory system. And, to quote the words of the Commission, "a universal feeling, whether well or ill founded, cannot safely be disregarded." In such circumstances, it will be said, the sum of two millions is a very small price to pay for the eradication of a social evil which has been steadily getting worse since the commutation of tithe was introduced a century ago. It is not to be expected that the Bill will become law without amendment in detail, and some of the proposals contained in the Government's White Paper will need very careful scrutiny, particularly those relating to redemption arrangements and the payments to rating authorities. A substantial move, however, has been made towards the solution of a long-vexed problem.

MARCH

March like a blustering lad is back
With lovely tumult on the hills,
And now of sweets there is no lack—
It is the time of daffodils.

And Spring's high ransom has been paid
So many golden times this day :
A young male blackbird, unaframed,
Stands on a little crazy spray,

And stares about the changing land
With quick uncomprehending eyes,
As it were hard to understand
He sings each separate surprise.

But I with less of wit than he
For all my use of many Springs,
Stand up as dumb as any tree
Before these bright familiar things.

A. NEWBERRY CHOYCE.

"THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GAME"

PEOPLE who do things from the highest motives are apt to have them misconstrued, and the Football League seem to have made themselves very unpopular with their public. By their own account they declared war on the football pools in what are vaguely known as the best interests of the game, and those who watch the game in their millions every Saturday are most ungratefully annoyed with them. So, not unnaturally, are those who, also in their millions, have a modest flutter of sixpence or a shilling in the pools every week. At the present moment the state of affairs is rather chaotic and ridiculous. No team knows who will be its opponents until it receives the information at the last moment, and none of the "supporters" can make up their enthusiastic minds whom they want to look at and whether they must take their tickets. Each side in the quarrel professes to have several more devastating moves up its sleeve ; so this absurd "war" may go on some time longer, but the general sympathy is with the Pools rather than the League. It is hard to believe that many people are ruining their pockets or their moral characters by their small weekly bet, and they undoubtedly get a great deal of amusement and even some intellectual exercise out of their prophecies. Still harder to believe in is the threat to the "purity of sport" and the prospect of hundreds of these humble "investors" bribing a goalkeeper or doping a centre forward.

ARMY HORSES IN EGYPT

IN Egypt, at the end of the War, twenty-two thousand horses and mules were sold into slavery with masters the majority of whom were too poor to spare their wretched animals even a few hours' rest a week, too poor to feed them,

and whose treatment of their beasts of burden was based on very different principles from our own. Hunger and thirst and suffering beyond description were the fate these old friends encountered. This was not to be borne by those who came to know the facts, and "The Old War Horse Fund," through Mrs. Geoffrey Brooke, was able to announce last summer that over 3,400 of these unfortunate animals had been traced and bought and had died mercifully after a few days' happiness and comfort. When the decision was announced to mechanise the cavalry and artillery quartered in Egypt, it was feared that the fate of the Army horses might again be in the balance. Fortunately the War Office has taken a strong line in the matter, and the official announcement has now been made that "All Army animals which, on the mechanisation of their unit, cannot be absorbed into another unit, will be destroyed under military supervision. None will be sold to the local inhabitants." This supplies the answer to those who feared that, through stress of circumstances, our horses might once more be abandoned to their fate. About 15,000 horses are in use in the British Army to-day—13,000 of them at home, and the majority of the rest in Egypt. These, however, include officers' chargers which will be retained after mechanisation. In Great Britain, fortunately, the normal procedure for disposing of old war-horses makes it certain that they will be kindly treated until the end of their days.

GOOD LETTERING

THAT there has been an enormous advance in the quality of lettering and printing during the past twenty years scarcely needs assertion, though to realise the extent of our progress it is necessary to look at an old poster or open a newspaper of pre-War date. Few people, however, recognise the debt we owe for this improvement to the Society of Scribes and Illuminators, an exhibition of whose work is now being held at the Architectural Association, 36, Bedford Square. Fine manuscript books and illuminated addresses form a large proportion of the exhibits, but by no means all; one can see here how far-reaching the influence of the Society has been, in devising new type-faces, in improving the lettering of public notices and shop signs, in bringing its high standards of craftsmanship into the commercial field. Mr. Eric Gill's sans-serif type has already been widely adopted, and we are shown here another sans-serif that Mr. Edward Johnston, the father of modern calligraphy, has designed for the Underground Railways, whose posters are now printed in this clear, distinctive type. About its handwriting our generation can only feel a becoming humility, murmuring excuses about time-saving and typewriters. And so one looks with reverence at the beautiful penmanship of Mr. Johnston, Sir Sydney Cockerell and several other distinguished hands, whose secret is not that time hangs heavily on them but that they have won an obedience from their pens that the ordinary man can only marvel at.

EASTER ISLAND

THE remoteness of Easter Island, a volcanic rock rising bare and solitary out of the Pacific, has for long aroused speculation about the origin of its remarkable "stone age" culture. Of what race were the people who carved those colossal stone statues, one of which now stands, blackened with London soot, under the portico of the British Museum? Were they the ancestors of the present islanders, who know nothing about the statues, or did they belong to some older and long-vanished people? In an article in the current number of *Antiquity* M. Henri Lavachery summarises the conclusions reached by the recent Franco-Belgian expedition to the island. The supposed mystery, he says, is no mystery at all. The present Polynesian inhabitants probably reached the island seven or eight hundred years ago, at the time when New Zealand and Hawaii were also being peopled. They must have come in open canoes over the 1,750 miles of ocean from the nearest Polynesian group, the Gambier Islands, where there were once statues resembling those of Easter Island. The fact that within twenty years of the death of their last king the Pascuans had forgotten about their old traditions only shows how completely contact with Europeans obliterated the memory of their ancient

culture. Europeans enslaved them, brought them war and disease. "From that time onwards they lost without any effort both peace and joy of life." In a word, these neolithic "savages" were civilised. In the same number of *Antiquity* a most interesting article throws much new light on those late tumuli of the Roman period, to which belong the notable series of barrows at Bartlow in Essex and the six "hills" at Stevenage familiar to travellers along the Great North Road.

THE WILD WORLD

THE COUNTRY LIFE Exhibition of Nature Photography, which made such an impression when shown for three months at the Natural History Museum, is now on its travels. Having visited the Hancock Museum at Newcastle, it is now at Rotherham, whence it moves to Shrewsbury. Any museum that would like to receive it should apply to COUNTRY LIFE Office. The Exhibition undoubtedly is doing a great deal to supplement interest in wild life of all sorts. The more that is known about wild animals, and of birds in particular, the more apparent becomes their importance in the economy of Nature. The International Committee for Bird Preservation has been in existence for some time, being a body founded to co-ordinate the efforts of bird protection societies in different countries. With a view to more efficient co-operation the British section of this Committee has been recently reorganised, and at a meeting of the section at the British Museum (Natural History) the Chairman, Dr. P. R. Lowe, reviewed the situation and some interesting subjects were considered, among them the present status of wild duck in the British Isles. It is feared that there is a serious decrease in the numbers of our ducks, and many sportsmen and ornithologists are anxious concerning them. The British Section of the International Committee for Bird Protection will do well to investigate the matter and endeavour to find a remedy if one be needed.

NEW HOUSES

I cannot understand how men can live
In houses built on the still bleeding hills.
A year ago I knew fields which could give
Promise of Autumn trees, corn, daffodils;
They were so quickly tamed that, in the street,
You think you almost smell last summer's hay,
And almost feel the grass beneath your feet.
With their last harvest barely stored away
They knew a scourge more savage than the plough,
Wounds wider than the scarce-felt furrow scars:
They looked their last upon the sun and now
Men walk in streets where street-lamps dim the stars.

J. BUNCE.

TIMBER THROUGH THE AGES

TRAVELLERS by underground who have frequent recourse to Charing Cross Station are regaled with a succession of miniature exhibitions, which have two great advantages over most exhibitions—that you need not stop long and have nothing to pay. Just now it is well worth missing two or three trains to have a look at the beautiful display of photographs illustrating the uses of timber through the ages. There are two main sections, showing traditional and modern uses of timber, which serve to point a contrast that is well expressed in one of the admirably lettered legends painted on the walls. "The modern uses of timber are structural rather than sculptural. They have definite beauty, but it is incidental rather than purposeful." In a mediaeval timbered roof or a Chippendale table the carver had it very nearly all his own way; nowadays the carpenter and joiner, with machines to aid them, have come back to their own. Where wood is used decoratively to-day, much greater importance attaches to the use of veneers. This has come about largely through the new possibilities for timber that plywood has opened up. A composition of various English and Empire woods in plywood form has been skilfully arranged by Mr. Paul Nash on one of the walls. The legend already quoted goes on to suggest that to our modern technical skill in the handling of wood we shall one day be able to add a new sculptural form; but the cheapness of veneers and plywood for decoration do not seem to leave the carver much of a chance.

Famous Hunts and their Countries

THE SINNINGTON



THE SINNINGTON AT BARTON. MAJOR GORDON FOSTER, THE EX-MASTER, IN THE CENTRE

OLIVER CROMWELL might almost be named the founder of the Sinnington Hunt, for by his death the Duke of Buckingham was freed from the Tower and the threat of certain death. So far back into the mists of time does the history of this, "England's oldest Hunt" go. In the decline of his life, the Duke, who had known every triumph and disaster into which an eminent and brilliant man could well be led by his defects, found abiding pleasure in his fox hunting in what is now the Sinnington, Bilsdale and Farndale countries. In fact, these three packs may be said to spring from the common source of the Duke of Buckingham's Hounds. The Duke was Master, roughly, from 1660-78, and died at the inn at Kirby Moorside, alone and unattended, a bitter ending for a man who, in important matters, could never forget his position. So "t' aud Duke" passed away.

In 1695 the Duncombe family moved into that part of Yorkshire and bought the Helmsley estates from the Duke of Buckingham's executors. In the interim, scratch packs hunted the country, and the Duke's hounds formed the nucleus of the Bilsdale, Farndale and Rokeby Hounds. In the early eighteenth century the Duncombe family gave up the hounds, and two hundred years were to pass before the late Lord Feversham again represented the Duncombe family in mastership. The present Lord Feversham hunts the hounds for a committee; it is an extraordinary record of the association of one family with the same Hunt, but typical of a country where what has been will be.

From 1745 to 1875 the Kendal family were prominent as Masters. From 1875-79 Mr. Robert Ellerby was Master, followed by Mr. Thomas Parrington (1879-84) and Mr. Robert Leslie (1884-91). Mr. Alfred ("Nimrod") Pearson started what must surely be the longest secretaryship in the history of fox hunting in 1879, which continued until his death in 1933. Few men can have done more for a pack of hounds than Mr. Pearson did for the Sinnington. A great change came when Mr. Clayton Swan took over the hounds in 1891, for they then ceased to be trenched fed, and were kennelled at Kirby Moorside; before, they had been a very workmanlike and popular pack of hounds, but kennelling and centralisation of administration gave greater opportunity for careful breeding and, in a way, greater status, though a tradition of sport for sport's sake and nothing else persists strongly.

to the present day. The old days cannot be passed by without mention of two very famous huntsmen of the Sinnington, when they were trenched fed. The first, Jimmy Gowland, was huntsman for forty-six years, from about 1760-1806, and he died in 1822, aged eighty-one. His salary was £50 a year, but he had to provide his own horse. As he is said to have had a marked preference for thoroughbreds, his financial means must have been "elastic." Jack Parker was perhaps even more famous than Gowland, and first became huntsman under Mr. William Kendall in 1851. The day before hunting, he and Jinny Parker, his wife, would go separate paths to collect the pack from the various farms where they boarded. When the note of a horn was sounded the hounds would leave their lodgings and come down with one or the other to Kirby Moorside. Here they would be kennelled for the night, and after hunting, the next day would wait until they were sure the sport was over, then split into parties, each party making its way home, and single hounds dropping out when they reached their farms. Jack Parker was huntsman for thirty-eight years, and his wage was £150 per annum, providing his own horse and keep.

In 1894 Mr. Penn C. Sherbrooke took over from Mr. Clayton Swan, and expanded the former's good work; but foxes were still scarce in the country, and blank days were not unknown, as his diary shows. Mrs. Sherbrooke was of the greatest assistance to her husband, and was a particularly good judge of a hound. Hounds began to be bred on scientific lines, the sires used coming chiefly from the Milton, Belvoir, Holderness and South Notts packs. Mr. Robin Hill, who still hunts with the Derwent, whipped in to Mr. Sherbrooke from 1899-1902 and hunted hounds for him 1902-3; he was probably one of the best amateur huntsmen of his time.

In 1904, Viscount Helmsley became Master, and thus the Duncombe family were again in office. So the position of the Hunt continued to improve steadily; hounds could win on the flags, and had been able to do so since an amazingly short time after being kennelled, and could also hunt and kill their foxes. From 1908 to 1914 Mr. Sherbrooke came back as Joint Master with Viscount Helmsley, and a golden age drew steadily to a close. The late Earl of Feversham was killed in action in 1916, and during the rest of the War the Hunt was maintained and administered by a committee. Mr. Alfred



LORD FEVERSHAM, THE MASTER, TALKING TO MR. ROBIN HILL

March 7th, 1936.



OUT WITH THE SINNINGTON
Miss Margaret Shaw and Captain C. J. Traill, who is Joint-Master of the Goathland pack, with Mr. Gerald Gundry



THE HUNTSMAN WITH THE PACK



SOME OF THE FIELD MOVING OFF AFTER A MEET AT BARTON

("Nimrod") Pearson again came to the fore, and his spirit of refusing to be beaten by conditions was largely responsible for keeping the Sinnington Hounds in existence. Hounds prominent in the pedigrees during the War period were Belvoir Gordon ('14) and Sinnington Goldfinch ('17).

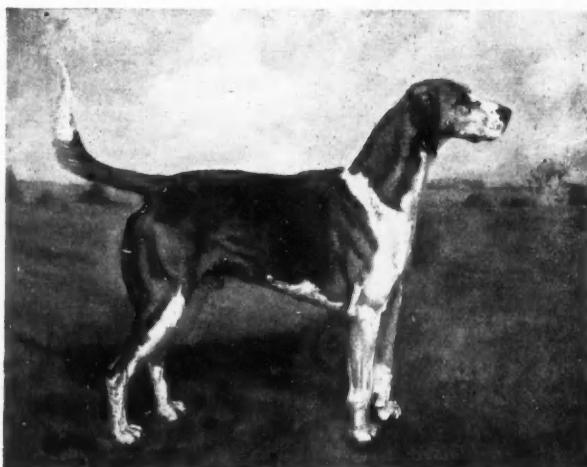
In 1919 Major Gordon Foster took over the mastership with only fifteen couple of hounds in the kennel. Within three years there were fifty-five couples of hounds in the kennel, and the sale of drafts had realised £3,000; this record speaks for itself. Major Gordon Foster bred what was perhaps the quickest pack of hounds in England, and no fox could live long which hung before them. They were nearly all bitches, and, indeed, for several seasons, there was not a dog hound in the kennel. One hound made this superlative pack—Foreman ('20). When Major Foster came from Badsworth, he had brought three whelps by Radiant (a hound which had made the Badsworth); two were sold, but Foreman was kept, and every hound in the Sinnington kennels traces to him. Major Foster never bred from a bitch unless she was good in her work; the result has been, and still is, a vindication of the theory that true symmetry in hounds results in their doing their work well, and covering the country at maximum speed with minimum wear and tear.

The present Lord Feversham joined Major Foster in 1930, and stayed on till 1933, hunting the hounds frequently. Then Major Foster was again sole Master in the 1933-34 season; but towards the end of this season Lord Feversham again hunted hounds, in preparation for the present arrangement, by which he hunts hounds five days a fortnight for a committee. Captain R. T. Pearson, the nephew of "Nimrod" Pearson, gives his able assistance as secretary, so that, uncle and nephew, the Pearsons have been secretaries of the Sinnington for fifty-eight years. Although hounds have had a very broken season, being stopped both before and after Christmas, Lord Feversham has shown great sport, and is an advocate of the "Let them alone" principle.

Indeed, on the high side of this country, with its precipitous and well wooded dales, this system is the only possible one. In many places hounds must hunt and draw a long way from their huntsman. The country may be likened to a hand, with the fingers spread out: the Helmsley, Kirby Moorside, Pickering road forming the base of the fingers, and running north-east from Helmsley. The Vale is hunted on Thursday, and a very good one it is too, lying like a jewel set in dales and moors on the north, and the vast woods of Gilling and Hovingham on the south.

A bold horse is required to cross this country, with its ditches and drains running alongside every fence, and many a vainglorious aspirant from other parts has swallowed his pride largely diluted with their black mud. Notable covers in the Vale are Habton, Skelton, Riseborough, Muscoates, Harome, Butterwick and, most famous of all, Rook Barugh (pronounced "Rookbarf"). Here one of the prettiest finds in England can be seen, for the field stands grouped on a hill above the thorns, where they can watch a fox leave over the green pastures beneath them, and see hounds gathering on his line and driving on out of covert.

The only disadvantage of this Vale (which, by the way, can be best enjoyed by a strictly limited field, of a hundred or so) is that many rivers run through it. The largest of these, the Rye, Seven, Riccal and Dove, are unnegotiable; but there are fords and hunting bridges. This Vale is bounded by the Middleton on the south, the Derwent on the east,

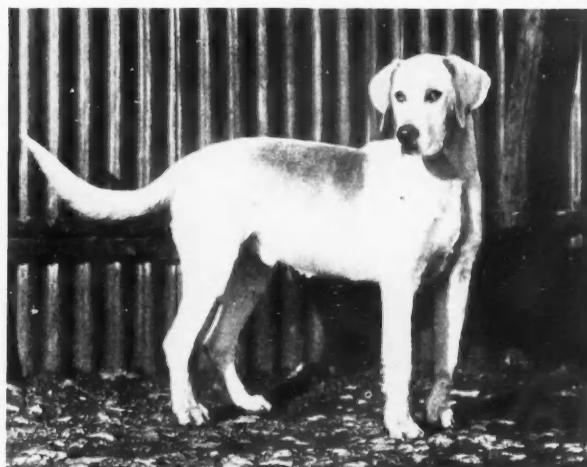


FOREMAN (1920). This hound has been one of the chief factors in building up the present pack

and the York and Ainsty on the west. North of the Helmsley-Kirby Moorside road, the dale country begins, and the fingers of the hand are Beckdale, Ashdale, Riccaldale, Skiplam, and Rums Gill, with Ling Moor and Sinnington Woods over. All these dales run up into the moorland, which marks the beginning of the Bilsdale and Farndale countries. Ridges of wild country lie between the dales, and it is the best of countries for making young hounds and young horses. The foxes are stout and long on the leg, all over the country, but particularly in the dales, the average weight of a dog fox killed in Sinnington country being nearly eighteen pounds. Hounds which are fast, but which do not go faster than their noses, are required to account for this sort; and so they have been bred.

They are a beautiful type of hound, light, whippy, full of quality, deep through the heart without being heavy, with wonderful neck and shoulders, and enough bone to carry them, but no useless bone to carry. Das her ('33) is a typical dog hound, by Gordon ('31) out of Daylight ('29); Daylight used to fly all her fences like a steeple-chaser and had wonderful drive.

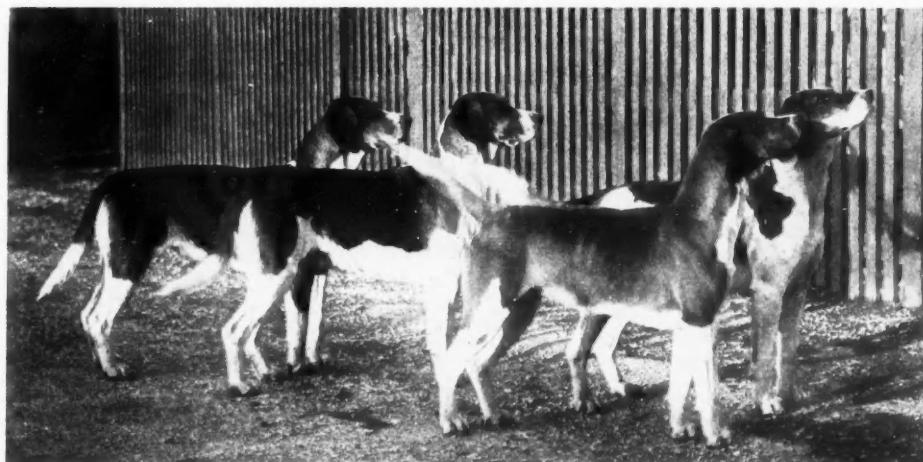
At present there is a lot of South and West Wilts Gimcrack ('29), tracing to Kilkenny Gory ('21), Heythrop Valesman ('27) bringing in Brocklesby and old Belvoir blood, with its bright tan, Heythrop Farrier ('28), and Middleton Safeguard, who goes to Kilkenny Gaffer through Sinnington Vanguard; and, of course,



GOVERNOR (1935). An old-fashioned type of dog hound, by South and West Wilts Gimcrack (1929)—Gertrude (1931)

all roads lead to Foreman (1920). There is some Welsh blood in the kennel through the South and West Wilts cross. Welcome, a Gimcrack, is regarded as the best bitch in a kennel where bitches predominate, there being twenty-two and a half couple of bitches to eight and a half couple of dogs. Regent, a Heythrop Farrier, is the best working dog hound. In spite of the frost, hounds look remarkably fit: a tribute to George Gulwell, kennel huntsman and first whip, who came last season from the Heythrop.

In this delightfully remote but friendly country, which can combine all the delights of a gallop over the vale and an old-fashioned "fox chace" on the hills and moors, wire and poultry claims are not the ogres that they are in some countries; the farmers are great sportsmen, even when they cannot hunt, and their wives are chary of claiming unless they have suffered a



A HEYTHROP HARRIER GROUP
Rompish, Rarity, Renée, and Rivulet (1934), by Heythrop Farrier (1928) out of Rainbow (1930)

real and severe loss. There is practically no wire. This wonderful state of affairs is probably due to three reasons: the sporting nature of the farmers; the popularity of Lord Feversham and his family, with whom the farmers have been connected for so many hundreds of years; and last, but not least, the hard work of Captain Pearson and his collaborators, Captain Harry Slingsby and Mr. H. B. Beard of Harome. In this happy and untroubled country, fox hunting looks as if it would go on for ever, with little change; it is real country, with only three trains a day on the single railway running through the Vale, no big roads and few villages.



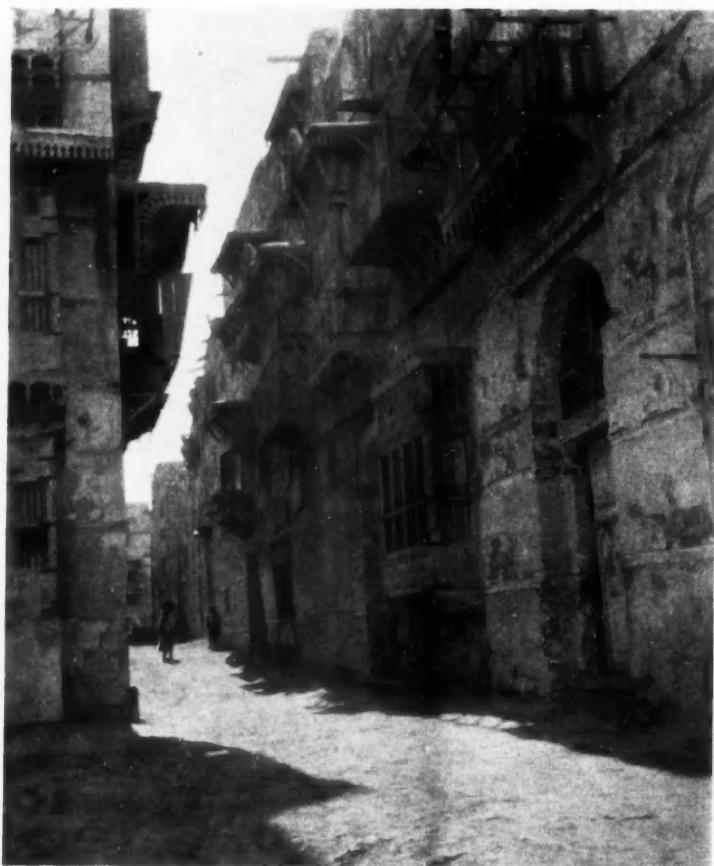
RENEE (1934) AND **WELCOME** (1932). Welcome, who is by South and West Wilts Gimcrack (1929)—Winkle (1929), is acknowledged to be the best working bitch in the kennel



VERAL (1935) AND **WILLING** (1935). Veral is by Middleton Chancellor (1929)—Volume (1932), Willing by Gilpin (1932)—Wisdom (1930)

A PILGRIM TO MECCA

By SIRDAR IKBAL ALI SHAH



ARAB HOUSES, BUILT OF CORAL, IN JEDDAH



PILGRIMS IN THE GRAND MOSQUE AT MECCA

THE time was March, the season of world-wide pilgrimage to Mecca.

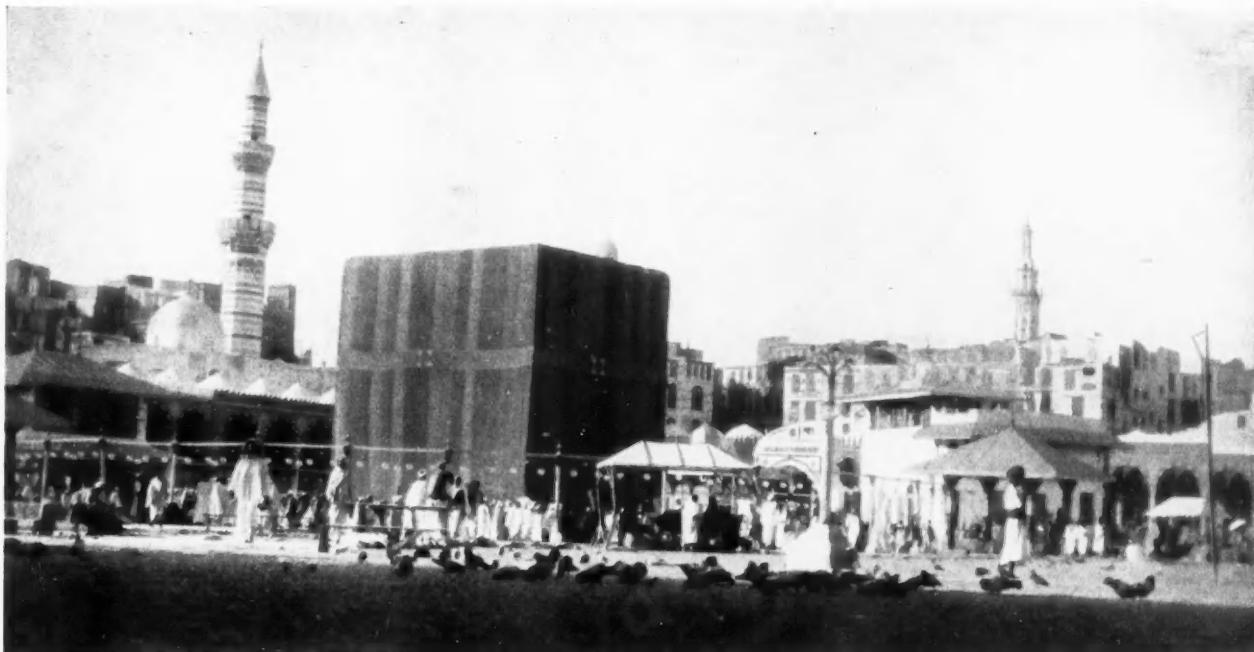
In a fierce mid-day heat enveloped in clouds of choking dust, I was among a heterogeneous mass of Moslem pilgrims, sweating, and with jaded faces, as we lumbered on our way to the Bombay harbour in India—Afghans, Persians, Javanese, Indians and Uzbeks, all staring at one another and endeavouring to follow diverse languages we had never heard of before. On the arrival of the medical officer the babel of tongues died away; all sat on the floor of the shed and were vaccinated. But as soon as a medical certificate was granted and the pilgrim was free to move, you could see him hurrying along the passage with his left shirt arm folded. Where is he going, you wonder, till you notice him behind the shed, washing the wound inflicted by the vaccinator. Many think that the lymph is "an impurity of cow" and hence not fit to be absorbed by the skin of a "faithful" bound for sacred Mecca, the mystic city of Arabia, where only the Moslems can go.

Close by the quay platform awaited the pilgrim boat to Jeddah on the Red Sea, and when the final word to "depart" was given by the medical authorities, there was a rush to the gangway. Stalwart Pathans of the frontier, weak and ill fed Bengalis, sleepy-eyed men of Bokhara, veiled women carrying children in their arms, made one dash. They carried their valuables along with them in sacks, crudely made tin boxes, or bulging baskets insecurely tied with ropes. The sacks, however, were in predominance as items of "portable luggage" intended for "cabin only." All were excited, noise and smell of the East blended with the sanctified air of the pilgrim boat. They rushed the gangway—people pushing into the sacks, bundles and baskets pushing into the people: a water receptacle now peeping out of a sack, now pushed up by the jolting crowd, and then slipping out of the hands of its owner into the sea. Thus the narrow pathway led the "faithful" on to the deck and away down to its enormous cavernous depths.

Three shrill blasts from the gigantic boat, a thud of the engines, and slowly we moved away from the Indian shores amid the cries of "Allaho-Akbar, Allaho-Akbar"—God is great, God is great. As a pious Moslem, I had a craving to visit the Holy City of my faith. Taking, therefore, little or no account of the future, believing in "What is written is written," relying on the philosophy of my fathers, I resolved to face the discomforts and perils inseparable from a pilgrimage to Mecca as stoically as possible.

Existence on the pilgrim ship, to one used to the ordinary comforts of life, was, to say the least of it, harassing, and although much has recently been done by the Wahabi Government to provide liveable conditions, yet the devotees were packed like pilchards in a tin. The worst phase of the voyage began on the third day after we had left Karachi for Jeddah, for practically every pilgrim was in the throes of *mal de mer*, and one of them, who only the day before told me he could not be sea-sick, was prostrated and prayed loudly for death to release him. Those shouting and harrowing scenes had an end, the sky was grey, the wind swept the vessel, and the waves beat on the side with more than ordinary force. Corpse-like men lay on the deck, on their charcoal sacks, on coiled ropes—everywhere—uttering not a word, hardly interested to exist, and refusing food and drink. They thought an evil spirit had come upon the boat. But it takes more than a rough sea to hide life altogether, for as soon as the waves subsided, the corpse-like ones rolled up their beddings, sat up, cooked their food, the Persians made tea, the Belgalis skinned fish, the Pathan was busy with his palaw rice of excellent flavour.

During the spell of sea-sickness the pilgrims had lost all clear idea of their purpose, but, on recovering, soon they remembered the real solemn idea that induced them to journey to the city of their childhood dreams and life-long prayers. The air on the boat was "thick with religion," prayer carpets were spread, recitations of the Koran were chanted, doctors of theology were busy reading to the devotees those chapters of the Holy Book of Islam which related to that part of the journey of the pilgrimage. In the afternoons religious discussions took place, even political, and both used to end where they began. And thus the life of the pious on a pilgrim ship was spent, till one day, soon after dawn, the captain of the boat appeared on the deck and pointed out to us



THE KAABA, HOLY OF HOLIES OF ALL MOSLEMS, DRAPED IN THE BLACK CARPET, IN THE CENTRE OF THE COURT OF THE GRAND MOSQUE

in the haze of distance, a dark blue line—the Holy Land of Islam ! The Arabian coast ! The port of Jeddah !

We could hardly speak for excitement. Little by little it became clearer, as we stood watching it in our *Ahram*—our regulation pilgrim costume—till the white city of minarets and domes of Jeddah lay as cut in marble when the boat dropped anchor some two miles from the shore. From that point no ship could go near, as the reefs are very numerous ; and many negotiated that portion of the journey in tiny sailing boats, tossing like a cockle-shell on the crests of the waves.

The first sight of Jeddah gripped me. I gazed at it as a Moslem, with pleasure mingled with awe and reverence. Beyond that city, at the distance of fifty miles or more, lay Mecca, the goal of my hopes—the Holy of Holies of every Moslem. Life's dream, I thought, had at last been realised. The pallor of my face and those tears that dimmed my eyes were indications of my emotions. The scene was strangely familiar, for had I not faced the Holy City five times every day of my life in prayer ? Absorbed in these thoughts, I remained in Jeddah for the night, and next day in a motor started towards Mecca, the Cradle of Islam.

Those of us who had more money than sense were bundled into a large motor car, and told that by this means we were to negotiate the fifty miles to Mecca. We had not proceeded far when a halt was made at the reputed tomb of Eve. Curious as to the grave of my great ancestress, I alighted to examine it. She must have been a lady of formidable proportions, for the original grave, I was told, was some eight feet long. It was perhaps as well, therefore, that she had not survived to welcome us in the flesh, for although it is rumoured that we Moslems have an eye for ladies of heroic proportions, we draw the line at the titanic. But I was told that the grave had mysteriously extended itself by the time I arrived to altogether gigantic dimensions. On payment of a fee, I learned one could receive an oracular message from the buried progenitress of suffering humanity. This was, of course, supplied by a confederate in an underground

crypt, who, for a shilling or two, droned out a "prophecy." Fortunately, the evil practice is stopped now, since the advent of the Wahabis.

As we trundled over the sandy tract, we felt the grilling heat of the desert overpoweringly. I was dressed in the traditional *Ahram*, which consists of two sheets, one for the upper part of the body, another for the lower, knotted together, as pins or sewing are frowned on by Moslem law. In accordance with immemorial custom, too, my head was shaved and unprotected from the merciless sun. To make matters worse, no water was to be had. At last, after twenty-five miles of torture, with parched lips and baking limbs, we drew up at the post of Bahra, where, we were told, there was a well, and, thanks to the Wahabi king we did not only find water, but even cool drinks : a god-sent thing in the grilling heat of the desert.

Hardly had we journeyed three miles beyond the well when the rear wheel of our motor sank deep in a sand heap. We alighted, and strove to move the venerable vehicle, but to no purpose and much to the contemptuous amusement of a passing Bedouin, who, from the back of his swift-trotting camel, jeered at us unmercifully.

"It serves you right for bringing that creation of Satan into the sacred land," he yelled. "Why can't you travel on camel-back like other folks ? See, I can make my camel stop when I want and go when I wish him to. Take that iron contraption back to the Devil who made it."

By this time I was well in the grip of fever, and it was with pounding head and swaying legs that I negotiated the seven-fold circumambulations of the sacred Kaaba, that Holy of Holies, believed to have been built by Adam, which contains the sacred black stone set in silver. The Haram, or sacred enclosure in which it is situated, is surrounded on all sides by graceful colonnades, surmounted by white domes, forming Mecca's sacred mosque. On the day in question it was crowded by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the East, eager to kiss the holy relic.

From the moment the pilgrim enters Mecca to the time of his



IN THE COLONNADE OF THE GRAND MOSQUE

departure, he is kept in a fever of excitement and pious frenzy. Ceremony after ceremony claims his constant and unfaltering attention. He is for hours wedged in swaying and seething crowds. One of the most arduous rites is the passing seven times between the space of Safa and Marwa, the alleged tombs of Hagar and Ishmael, a distance of perhaps three hundred yards, which is known as the Sa' ceremony, and from which one may acquire much merit. The road is not narrow, but is constantly crowded with pilgrims. Add to this prayers five times a day, and one has not much time to see the sights of Mecca. Not that there is really much to see. Moreover, Ibn Saud has rightly banned all diabolical amusements. Mecca is drier than Milwaukee by many degrees, and to light a cigarette is to call down anathemas from pious Moslems.

The most striking picture in Mecca is that provided by the vivid and colourful life of its wonderful bazaars. The most celebrated of these is the Soayqa, which occupies one side of the Haram, and has a great reputation throughout the East for its fine silks, its wonderful beadwork and its rich and choice perfumes. The latter are a necessity of life in Mecca, where the sanitation of the rest-houses till lately was most execrable. Indeed, scented woods had constantly to be burned in these overcrowded houses to keep down the effluvia of overcrowded humanity which is constantly rising.

But purchasing an article in Mecca is scarcely the same sort of business as in Fifth Avenue or the Strand. Goods in the bazaars are unticketed, and if you fancy anything the merchant will ask six or eight times its value. Of course, the turbaned gentleman well knows that you will at once depreciate it, which you proceed to do, if you are skilful, with a flow of rhetoric which bamboozles him. But when he has recovered, he comes back at you with an eloquence of praise for his goods worthy of a Hafiz. So it goes on until one or the other is exhausted. On one occasion I bought a melon, which, the merchant assured me, was "sweeter than the honeycombs on the hills of Paradise." On finding the inside blacker than Eblis, I returned it to the seller, who looked at me pityingly.

"Oh, my unwise brother," he chanted, "the melon was made by Allah. Why not complain to Him about it? His house is hard by!"

One might describe Mecca under Wahabi rule as a "Calvinistic" city, the metropolis of the Moslem purists. It has no lighter side to its austereities. Indeed, Mecca should be nothing else. Yet the very colourfulness of its crowded and enthusiastic life, and the sight of thousands of devotees massed together from all the lands of the East, cannot fail to make a lasting impression; and the security it offers has been possible only since the Wahabi régime.

A RAID INTO NORFOLK

By BERNARD DARWIN

IT happened to me last week that I made a rapid and sudden raid into Norfolk to see two courses that I had not beheld for a regrettably long time—Sheringham and Cromer. I am bound to admit that as I started I felt rather like an Arctic explorer going to my inevitable doom, for the wind, even near London, was blowing intolerably from the east, and a simple calculation in the nature of the rule of three presented a dreadful picture of how it would be blowing on bleak, if engaging, cliffs. That wind, however, behaved nobly. It was cold, very cold, in the evening when I dashed out to have one brief look at the sea and the great Cromer Church dwarfing its little square; but next day that which had come from the east was blowing gently from the south-west, and life was pleasant enough. That I did not actually play golf and only walked was due rather to rheumatics and laziness than to the weather.

I went first to Sheringham, which I first knew as a nine-hole course in 1895 and had not seen for some thirteen years. It is, as many people know, an intensely seaside course in the sense that it looks far out to sea from the top of a cliff; but it is rather a down course in the nature of its turf, which is pleasantly light but not actually sandy. That which I always enjoy about it is the feeling of spaciousness. There is a reasonable number of bunkers, especially near the greens, the approaches to which are "tight" enough; but because of the big, open, rolling nature of the ground one cannot get out of one's head the agreeable illusion that there is not merely a whole parish, but a whole world to hit into. If a man is not encouraged to open his shoulders by those green and breezy spaces, then his case is a sad one indeed.

There is another thing that he ought to be encouraged to do, and that is to hook; or, at any rate, he ought to be gravely discouraged from slicing. Whoever originally made the course had firmly implanted in his breast the belief that to slice is weak and contemptible, to hook, by comparison, brave and manly. On the way out the slicer lives in terror, though I hasten to add that it ought not to be great terror, of the cliff and the beach below. It is threatening on his right flank at that fine two-shot hole, with the cross bunker for the second shot, the fourth. It is there, though really a long way off, at the fifth and sixth; and it is much more imminently there at the seventh, where he drives into space at a guide flag on the brow of a slope. Finally, something dreadful might befall him when he drives ominously over a lifeboat-house at, I think, the eighth. After that the poor slicing wretch can breathe freely for a while, and indeed the sea frightens him no more; but just when he has done a good score and has only fourteen holes to play, the railway assumes the office of the sea and is in fact much more alarming. At each of the last four holes it hangs menacingly on his right; and at the last two holes, if he does not put his tee shot into it, he can put his second. It is true that the prevailing wind is blowing away from the railway and that there is ample space on the left; but what cannot your true slicer accomplish when he is in the mood?

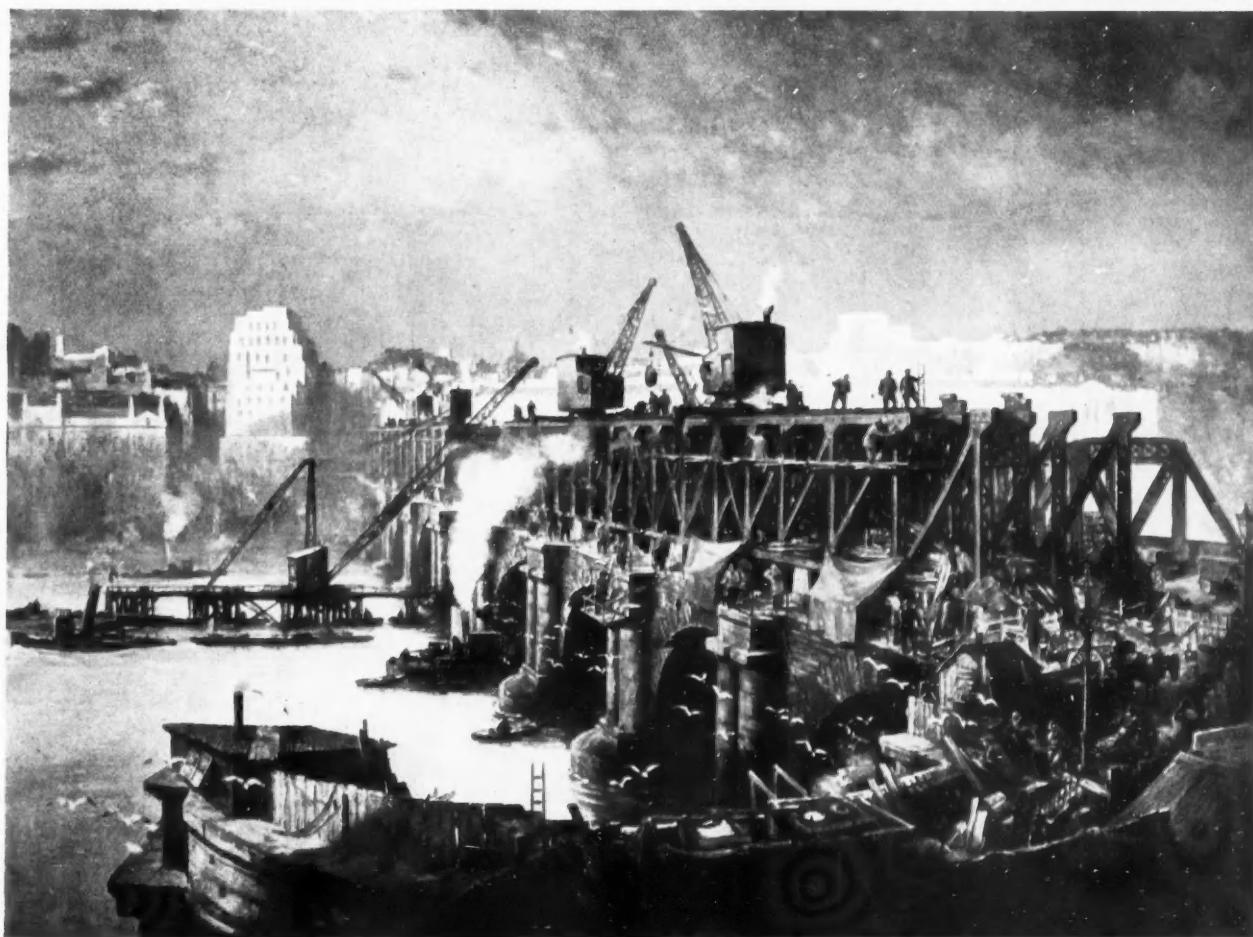
The course was much as I remembered it, but there had been one or two changes, in particular a new green at the first hole. This, which used to be of rather nondescript length, now demands a reasonably long second to a plateau green perched on the hill-side, with gorse trouble on either hand. It is always hard work

to have to hit our first shot through the green well into the air and I have no doubt that fives are much commoner here than fours. As a corollary to this change there is now a high tee to the second, so that we can see more exactly where we are going. That too is an improvement, and so is the bunkering of that entertaining little hole, the eleventh; where the bunkers were once straight-lined and cut and dried, they are now much more artistic and also, I should imagine, effective. The fourteenth, too, which was once dull and flat as a pancake, has now imposing mountain ranges behind the green, to its greater glory. My kind guide told me that when last I had seen that hole I had exclaimed: "This might be at — Park." Well, if I did, it was very uncivil of me, but not untruthful. To-day, at any rate, I can unhesitatingly withdraw the remark.

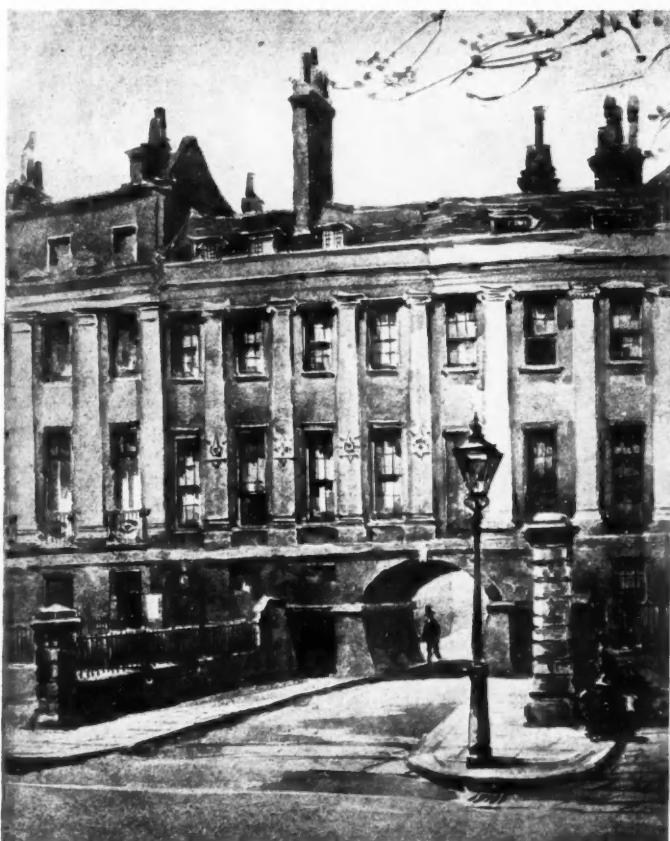
Having looked at Sheringham in the morning, I went to Cromer in the afternoon. Here my memories went back a good deal farther, since I had first played on the nine holes when I was twelve years old and, incidentally, accomplished what was then the round of my life, a 49. I loved those nine holes, and have, in consequence, never quite become reconciled to the newer, lower and more inlandish holes that stretch out to Overstrand. They are good enough and long enough and testing enough, but they lack—for me—something of the charm and the springy turf of the older ground between Target Hill and the Lighthouse. The hole that has a green on, as it were, a little shelf cut on the side of Target Hill, is still there much as I had always played it, and so is the still better hole back with its drive across the valley; but the green has been moved. It has been moved for a sad reason, namely, that the old one was so near the cliff that it might topple over some day on to the beach. That fate has overtaken some of the ancient course. When I first went to Cromer in 1889 as a boy, there was a whole ladies' course—a very small one—on the cliff's edge, and when I came back there six years later as an undergraduate, the whole of that miniature course had vanished. The next to go was the old eighth green, and finally the first, which was surrounded by a turf wall such as would be called a "cop" at Hoylake. So it was at the later holes that I thoroughly enjoyed myself, admiring the big bunker that comes winding in from the cliff at what is now the fifteenth hole, searching for and finding a little bit of the old first green (most of which has gone over the cliff), imagining myself again playing the tee shot from the hilltop down into the deep valley, where was once the home green and the club-house. I remembered that the great Herd had once come to play an exhibition match and that he had taken a wooden club to play this shot and had carried green, club-house and all at one fell swoop.

Some of the holes on that ancient ground look shorter than they did; but some, unless I am mistaken, have still fine qualities, especially that one which comes back from Target Hill, over the deep valley and up the hill to a green not so near the cliff as it used to be. And there is, I am sure, one most excellent hole which is a combination of two ancient ones, from the tee that was once the eighth over the cross-bunker and so to the green by the Lighthouse that was once the second. Yes, it was very good fun to be again on those two courses on the Norfolk cliffs, and I pay them both my affectionate and respectful compliments.

PAINTINGS OF PASSING LONDON



THE DEMOLITION OF WATERLOO BRIDGE
From the painting by Charles Cundall, A.R.W.S., at the Rembrandt Gallery



SARDINIA STREET. THE OLD ARCHWAY TO LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS
By W. Alister MacDonald.

LORD WAKEFIELD performed a most valuable service, as well as a generous one, when he purchased the whole collection of water-colours of old London by Mr. W. Alister MacDonald, exhibited recently at the Arlington Gallery, and presented it to the Guildhall Museum. A hundred in number, the sketches were mostly made between 1900 and 1912; yet even so, they nearly all represent buildings, or views, that have since disappeared. For twenty years the collection has been put away, and it is matter for congratulation that it is now to be kept together in perpetuity, for it provides a remarkable display of what London was a very short while ago, and is ceasing to be with increasing rapidity.

Mr. MacDonald seems to have had a premonition whenever a picturesque scene or group of buildings was to be destroyed. True, Clifford's Inn, of which he did several sketches in 1910, survived till only the other day. But pre-Embankment Millbank seems a long way off; the Port of London Authority now occupies the site of Catharine Court, the Office of Works that of the Georgian buildings at Storey's Gate, and the Sardinia Street archway into Lincoln's Inn Fields has been pulled down these twenty-five years. The columned line of buildings that spanned the arch, a section of which survives in Lindsay House, was an original side of the square and is believed to have been designed by Inigo Jones.

Mr. Charles Cundall, A.R.W.S., has preserved a melancholy episode in the story of London's architecture by painting two magnificent oil pictures of the demolition of Waterloo Bridge, now on view at the Rembrandt Gallery, Vigo Street. They have the accurate authenticity, and luminous clarity, of Canaletto and Samuel Scott, and are directly comparable to the Thames views of both those Old Masters. That reproduced, painted from the Surrey side, is also a noble composition, and reveals the beauty of the new Portland stone buildings arising along the Embankment, when tinged by a misty sun. These pictures, too, should find their way to a public gallery.

Will not Lord Wakefield, or some other generous-hearted Londoner, seize time by the forelock now, in 1936, by commissioning paintings of whole areas of London that are going the way of Waterloo Bridge and Clifford's Inn? The Adelphi, St. John's Wood, the Regency villas of Clissold Park and Stoke Newington? "Slum clearance" is sweeping away much that is worthy of remembrance.



Both are unusual examples of architecture under the Protectorate, when the brothers Smithson possessed them, though the structure of the Manor House probably dates back to the middle of the sixteenth century.

NEAR Scotch Corner, the little village of Moulton lies about a mile to the east of the Great North Road, in the parish of Middleton Tyas. It is remarkable for the possession of two elaborately decorated houses, situated within a few hundred yards of each other, and called respectively Moulton Manor House and Moulton Hall. Both were built by members of the Smithson family, which was fairly widespread in the North Riding, and produced Sir Hugh Smithson, created Duke of Northumberland after his

marriage with Lady Elizabeth Seymour-Percy in the eighteenth century. The Smithsons of Moulton, however, were only distant relations to those of Stanwick who, by way of haberdashery in London, rose to such high estate in Sir Hugh's person. The Moulton branch divided from the parent stem of Smithsons of Newsham in the first half of the fifteenth century, when Robert, third son of William of Newsham, fought as a man-at-arms at Agincourt and settled at Gathertley. Hugh Smithson, haberdasher, of London, created a baronet in 1660, who bought lands at Stanwick and was great-great-grandfather of the Duke of Northumberland, was born at Newsham in 1598.

Nor is there any ascertainable relationship, tempting as it is to suppose some on grounds of architecture, with those Smithsons who were noted masons at Hardwick, Wollaton, and Bolsover at about the same time that Hall and Manor were being built.

Another antiquity in the village is the remains of a small chapel, now used as a carpenter's shop and house, which carries us back to the early history of the Manor. Before the Conquest Moulton was one of the outlying portions of the great manor of Gilling subsequently vested in the Norman Count of Dreux, Earl of Richmond, who is recorded to have built a summer residence at Moulton. In Henry III's reign the Earl of Richmond gave a house and land in Moulton to the abbey of Begard in Brittany, and it is safe to assume that the house donated was the Earl's "summer residence," and that the community added the existing chapel to it. So late as 1808 one hundred acres in Moulton were paying "Beggars' Tythe"—tithe originally due to the "Begardi." The friars of Begard were a mendicant order founded by Lambert de Béguin of Liège, which in the thirteenth century acquired considerable property in England (of Weston Begard, Herefordshire; and some of the "Bec" names such as Tooting Bec). At the suppression of the alien priories in Richard II's reign, the Moulton property was given to the chantry of St. Anne at Thirsk; then, together with all the "Bec" lands, by Henry VI to his new



1.—MOULTON MANOR. THE ENTRY TERRACE BETWEEN THE WINGS

March 7th, 1936.

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2.—MOULTON MANOR FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN

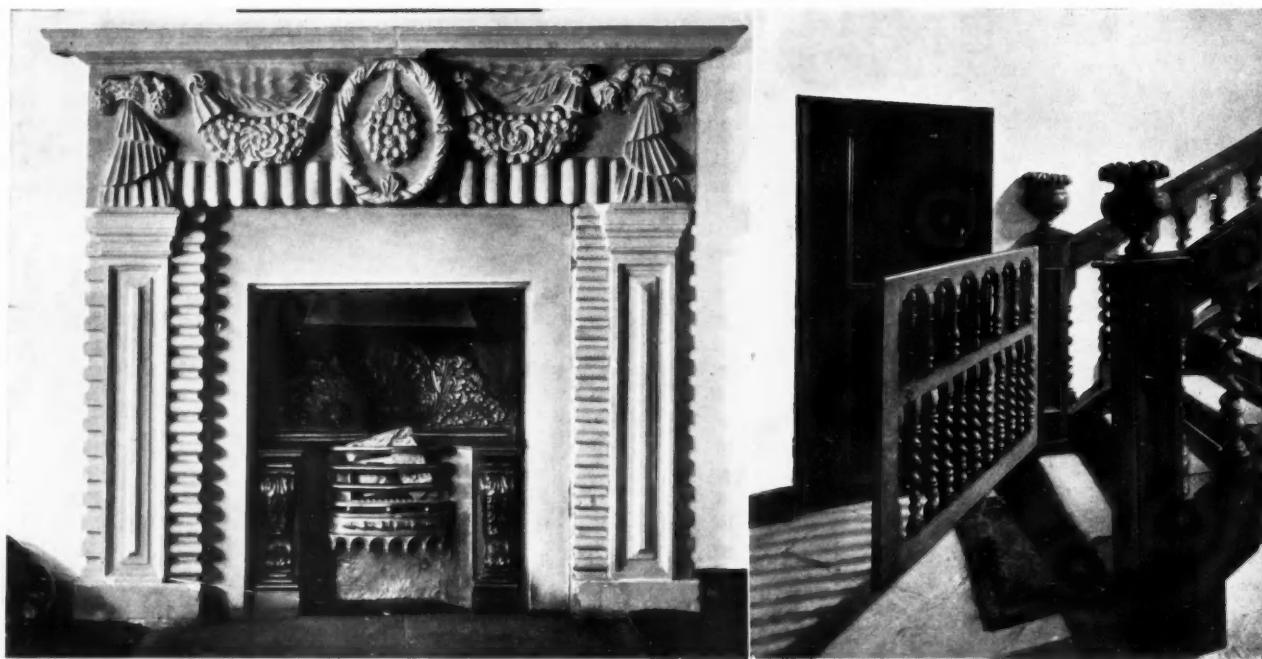
"Country Life"



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3.—MOULTON MANOR. CROMWELLIAN FEATURES ON A TUDOR FACE

"Country Life"



4.—MOULTON MANOR. THE DRAWING-ROOM CHIMNEYPEICE

5.—THE DOG GATE AT THE FOOT OF THE STAIRS

foundation of Eton College ; later to the neighbouring priory of Mount Grace, and finally to Eton again. The little chapel continued in occasional use till 1450, and probably up till the Reformation. The dressed stone of the conventional buildings,

which have entirely disappeared, may have been used in the building of the manor house.

Much other land in Moulton was held by religious houses—for instance, a "capital messuage" and eleven cottages that

John, Earl of Richmond had made over in 1275 to Egglestone Abbey for the maintenance of six canons in his Castle. It was probably at the Dissolution of the Abbeys that Thomas Smithson of High Gatherley, a yeoman or small squire, procured a moiety in the village. His son Leonard, "of Moulton," is stated to have held a lease of the manor house property before the latter's death in 1573.

Leonard Smithson is the first of the family actually connected with Moulton, and, despite traditions to the contrary, most likely built the manor house in about 1575. It is possible that in doing so he incorporated some existing building, or used its materials. But no architectural features survive to suggest that he did otherwise than build the house entirely. On the contrary, the rustic classicism of the elaborately architraved windows, the doorway with its broken corners and rusticated frame, the balustrade between the gables, the staircase (Fig. 5) and the fireplace (Fig. 4) look as though they were seventeenth-century insertions. In that case Leonard's son Christopher, who succeeded in 1578 and married a sister of Sir George Calvert of neighbouring Kiplin, Secretary of State to Charles I, may have thus brought the house up to date and more into line with the new hall at Kiplin (COUNTRY LIFE, Vol. LXX, page 228).

This connection with the Calverts marks the Smithsons' definite entry into the ranks of gentry. When, in 1654, George Smithson, the elder son of Christopher, married Eleanor Fairfax, a daughter of Colonel Charles Fairfax of Menston and niece of Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, the squire of Moulton Hall was an important person. He seems to be the Major George Smithson of Lilburn's Horse who induced that regiment to join Monk's army on its march from Scotland. He was certainly M.P., 1654-58. And it would seem to



6.—MOULTON MANOR. THE CROMWELLIAN STAIRS

March 7th, 1936.

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7.—MOULTON HALL. THE ENTRY FROM THE LANE

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8.—MOULTON HALL. AN UNUSUAL CROMWELLIAN FACADE
Dutch gables and alternate bands of recessed and indented ashlar

"Country Life"



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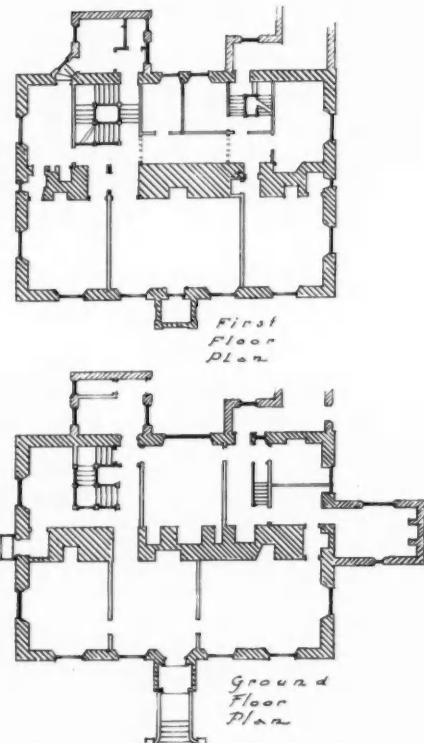
9, 10.—MOULTON HALL. THE STAIRCASE

"Country Life"

be he who took the peculiar—and, as it turned out, unfortunate—step of building a new house, Moulton Hall, farther away from the village green. The old manor house thereupon passed to his younger brother Thomas "of Moulton, gent."

The ornamental features of the Manor, while they may be due to Christopher Smithson as suggested above, look much more like work of the Protectorate period and thus due to either Major George Smithson or his brother Thomas. This is supported by the close similarity of the window architraves that are so noticeable at Moulton Manor to those of Halnaby Hall, a few miles away (COUNTRY LIFE, Vol. LXXXIII, page 334), built during the Protectorate by the Durham alderman Mark Milbanke. The emphasis in the design of both the Moulton houses and of Halnaby on alternate curved and triangular window pediments suggests that all three may be due to the same mason.

The character of the Manor House, whoever may be responsible for it, is particularly attractive, and uncommon in Yorkshire, that land of large houses. Entering the yard from the village green through the gateway



11.—PLANS OF MOULTON HALL

seen in Fig. 2, we approach a warm pinkish grey building with pantiled roofs. The gateway was originally on the principal axis, opposite the front door with its little terrace (Fig. 3). Inside, the most notable feature is the massive oak staircase with spiral balusters (Fig. 6) and "Jacobean" dog gate (Fig. 5). To the left of the hall a wainscoted dining-room minglest Jacobean and Charles II features, which can also be said of the delightful chimneypiece (Fig. 4) in the drawing-room.

The descendants of Thomas Smithson of the Manor continued to live there till the early years of the nineteenth century. The present owners, Colonel and Mrs. Vaux, have recently done it up with commendable simplicity.

Moulton Hall is a still more notable edifice. Oblong in plan, its front has three, and its sides two, curvilinear Dutch gables masking the pantiled roof, and the whole front is faced with a peculiar rustication in alternate smooth and indented bands. In the gables are oval windows similar in detail to those over the entry at the Manor. The

porch bears the Smithsons' arms of acorns (borne alternatively with oak leaves). The arch and pilasters repeat the motifs of the little doorway giving on to the balcony. The present steps were added in 1860.

If it was built by Major George Smithson *circa* 1650, it accords well enough with the style of the period, influenced as it was from Holland. The gables are analogous to those at Raynham, Broome, and Kew—though these all date from *circa* 1620. Their closest relative is perhaps the ogee gables of the Treasurer's House at York, *circa* 1616.

In view of the remoteness of Moulton, its being a generation behind innovations elsewhere is no objection to a mid-seventeenth century date. The character of its chief internal feature—its superb staircase (Figs. 9–10)—is conclusively of that period. On a cartouche (Fig. 12) on a landing appear the arms of Smithson impaling Fairfax, which fixes Major George Smithson as the builder, and date as not earlier than 1654. The comparable and larger staircase inserted at Durham Castle by Bishop Cosin 1662–3 is much coarser in finish. The staircase rises to the second storey in six short flights, the material being oak for the rails and carved panels, which is unusual, and chestnut for the newels. These are in every case surmounted by vases of fruit with handles, except where, at ground-floor level, the newels are carried up as the party-framing, the back of the staircase being here open to a garden hall.



12.—ARMS OF SMITHSON IMPALING FAIRFAX, ON THE STAIRCASE

The double ridge roof rests on a mass of masonry 6ft. 6in. thick, which bisects the plan from north to south, and contains all the chimneys. The numerous cupboard recesses that are also provided have naturally given rise to traditions about secret hiding places. It is possible that such did exist, but the cause of this central masonry mass was primarily the grouping of all the chimneys in the valley, where they would not interfere with the silhouette of the gables.

George Smithson had nine children, and seems to have died in financial difficulties, probably induced by his fondness for fine houses and the curtailing of his prospects by the Restoration. His eldest son had predeceased him, whereupon a Chancery lawsuit was instituted by the daughter-in-law. Perhaps as a

result of this he left Moulton Hall to his widow "with liberty to sell for debts etc and for raising some competent support for my 2 sons John & Christopher & my 2 daughters Eleanor & Dorothy." He names his brother Thomas of Moulton (Manor) as one of four friends to advise his widow. Consequently, the estate, worth £400 a year, was sold in 1695 to Sir Mark Milbanke of Halsbury for £8,000, who paid £5,000 down and gave a mortgage for £3,000 on the premises. It is interesting to find that the Hall was sold by the Milbanke family in 1815 to provide a dowry for Lady Byron. The purchaser, Sir J. Charles Dalbiac, sold it again in 1836 to dower his only daughter, who married the Duke of Roxburghe. It was subsequently bought by the Sanderson family, from whom it was acquired by the late owner.

CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY.

POINT-TO-POINTS ONCE MORE

ALMOST before we have realised we were once more hunting—so interrupted has the season been—point-to-points are again upon us; and most of those horses which are destined to take part in them have either retired from the hunting field to vigorous road exercise interspersed with occasional gallops, or are feverishly being hunted half-days in the effort to qualify as "genuine hunters"—perhaps the widest of all the wide terms in the foxhunter's vocabulary. These latter may be distinguished by any interested observer at the Meet by the efforts of their riders to attract the attention of the Master (or possibly the secretary) and by the length of their stirrup leathers, which (unlike the lover's hand-shake of the hero in a certain type of novel) are a shade or so shorter than convention dictates.

Truly no recent fox-hunting season has been interrupted so disastrously and so often. Foot and mouth disease, frost, His Majesty King George V's lamented death, frost again, and now floods, have lost very many days to foxhunting. It is well that the actual livelihood of the numerous people engaged in the sport, which is in these days one of the nation's important industries, has not been affected to the same extent as the livelihood of those employed in and about steeplechasing. Their loss has been appalling. But the effect of all these stoppages upon the point-to-point prospects is that most hunters will be far more backward than would have been the case in a good open season at this time of year; young, inexperienced horses will be even more inexperienced at the business of jumping, and the exceptional rainfall, which may well recur, will probably make for very heavy going on many courses; the gods may become kinder before the season is ended, but the last race at the 'Varsity Grind Meeting on February 22nd had to be cancelled for this reason; and this may not be the only one.

From now until the end of April point-to-points are held practically every weekday, and on many days at least half a dozen meetings are scheduled to take place at various places over the country. Already the Holland-Martin brothers have won five races (including a walk-over) and produced two useful newcomers in Wag and County Wicklow, as well as the ever-green Grasshopper II. Their string of point-to-point horses, which seems never to include a bad one, steadily lengthens, and we expect them to add many more cups to what is no doubt an already groaning sideboard before the end of the season. The horses of Major Rushton, the Master of the Worcestershire, are, like those of the Holland-Martins, kept hard at work hunting as long as possible, and he too has some very useful material. O'Dell has been one of the most consistent horses in the country during the

last few years; and Signet Ring won no fewer than five good races last year.

A mare whose reappearance we always await with great interest is Miss Barbara de Winton's Just Jane. We well remember her first win four years ago at the Beaufort races (when we finished last behind her). She was then ridden by that fine jockey Mr. G. S. Wood, who has won many races on her since, although in addition her owner has won numerous ladies' races on her, including the last three at the Beaufort, the meeting where she first won. Last season she won no fewer than six times. Miss de Winton owns a promising half-brother to her great mare in Small Hours, which won on his only appearance last season at the Croome Point-to-point from two others. This is a fine big horse which, on looks, we do not personally like so much as Just Jane, but he too should win races for his enthusiastic owner.

Mr. E. W. W. Bailey is another who usually possesses several first-rate point-to-point horses, and his Pucka Belle, which won four races last year, has already shown winning form. Other good winners whose reappearance will be eagerly awaited are Mr. A. Brake's Peggie's Lass, which won five races in the southwest last season; Double Domino, belonging to Mr. W. H. G. Hide, which was successful in four races in the West Midlands; Mr. L. J. Colwill's Comedian; and Mr. W. Wales's King High, both of which won four times, in the south and the east respectively; and Mrs. C. T. Nixon's good old horse Mr. Snip, which carried off four races in the far west. Mr. Victor Parry, the well known Cheltenham riding-master, had a great little horse last year in No Other, which won three good races, in the last one, the Cricklade, upsetting the odds on Miss Marjorie Eyston's well known horse Place House. No Other has, we believe, now been sold and promoted to steeplechasing.

It is now two years since the National Hunt Committee resumed control of point-to-points, and on the whole the sport has since been carried on with very few complaints. At the end of last season representations were made to the Committee that two rather irksome rules should be relaxed, one relating to the closing of entries for open races, and the other to the running of horses after winning three such races. As things stood last year, horses such as No Other, which had won three open races, could not thereafter be run in any such race, so that their future career would be limited either to subscribers', soldiers', or Adjacent Hunts' races or to National Hunt racing. This has now been remedied, and, while horses may not win more than three open races in a season, they may run in (and win) the same number in any subsequent season. This example of the readiness of the National Hunt Committee to lend an attentive ear to the views of

the point-to-point fraternity augurs well for harmonious co-operation between the two interests—which are really one, did they but know it—in the future.

When all is said and done, point-to-points are but the appendage to the farmers' luncheon—that one occasion in the year when we make a trivial gesture of thanks for all the kindness and hospitality we have received during the season. It should go without saying that every hunting man should subscribe liberally to the point-to-point fund, but one is bound to admit that many fox-hunters are sadly lacking in a sense of responsibility in this direction. In one case we know of a prosperous Mess, whose members hunted several days a week on a very much reduced

subscription, but which failed to contribute a sou to the point-to-point fund. Moreover, all local residents should be prepared to pay their ten shillings or more to take their cars on to the course. When attending a distant meeting, there is perhaps some excuse for grudging ten shillings or a pound for this purpose; but where the meeting of the local Hunt is concerned, there is no excuse. Admission for persons, either to the course or to a paddock, cannot be made the subject of a charge—that is the rule of the N.H.C.; all the more reason for paying an admission fee for a car. Even so, no one can spend a cheaper or more enjoyable afternoon at once in the open air and in congenial company.

J. S.

A LIFE OF MICHELANGELO

Michelangelo the Man, by D. L. Finlayson, Assistant Professor of Art, Cornell University. (Putnam, 15s.)

FEW great men can have had lives so tantalising, so full of disappointment, as that of Michelangelo Buonarroti. Remembering the grandeur of his achievements in three arts, the statue of David at Florence, the frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, the dome of St. Peter's, and his constant employment by the most powerful and wealthy patrons of his day in Italy, we are apt to assume that his was a career of continual success. Yet, as Dr. Finlayson's readable biography reminds us, a very large proportion of Michelangelo's life was wasted, through no fault of his own. The very magnificence of his talents was often the cause of their frustration. Very early in his life the great patrons realised that here was an artist capable of work upon a grand scale, with the result that he was forced, at the bidding of popes or of powerful families like the Medici, to undertake vast schemes in sculpture, painting and architecture, the majority of which he was never allowed to complete. Death, or political change, would sweep away the patron before the work was finished, or even well under way, and the artist would find himself faced with some new commission, which he dared not refuse, from a new patron. Thus not once, but many times, months, or even years, of preliminary work were thrown away.

The extreme instance of Michelangelo's difficulties was that of the tomb of Pope Julius II, upon which he started work in 1505. The tomb was planned at first as a three-storeyed structure, measuring 34ft. by 23ft. at the base, and adorned with over forty statues of heroic size and many reliefs in bronze. It was to be erected in St. Peter's. Every kind of interruption plagued the artist, including one for which we may be thankful, the Pope's order to paint the roof of the Sistine Chapel, a command which Michelangelo resisted to the utmost, alleging that he was not a painter but a sculptor. In 1513, the year of the Pope's death, a new scheme, upon half the original scale, was substituted. In 1516 it was still further modified. In 1532 there was a fourth, and again reduced, contract, and in 1542 a fifth. At last, in 1545, the tomb, a mere ghost of what was first planned, and largely the work of the sculptor's assistants, was completed and erected, not in St. Peter's but in the church of San Pietro in Vincoli. For forty years the scheme had been a nightmare to Michelangelo, and in the end it came to very little.

The author, as his title suggests, is chiefly concerned with Michelangelo's personal life, seen against a background of the public events of the times. We are shown the great artist's struggle with circumstance, his extraordinary and self-sacrificing loyalty to his scarcely worthy father and brothers, his astounding powers of labour, his frequent querulousness, and his few deep friendships. With aesthetic judgments Dr. Finlayson is only incidentally concerned. He succeeds in making the story both interesting and moving. Translations of Michelangelo's letters and poems are freely quoted, but otherwise few authorities are given in the text, though there is a short list of books at the end. The reader is therefore compelled, unless he is himself to undertake very laborious research, to accept Dr. Finlayson's facts, and interpretations of fact, at their face value. His book will therefore appeal rather to the general reader than to the scholar, who likes to be given chapter and verse for every detail.

More Letters from Martha Wilmot: Impressions of Vienna, 1819-1829.
Edited by the Marchioness of Londonderry and H. M. Hyde, D.Litt.
(Macmillan, 21s.)

DO you remember that delightful Irish girl, Martha Wilmot, who in 1803 travelled to Russia by herself to visit the Princess Dashkov (friend of Catherine the Great) and who ended by staying nearly six years with her? The outbreak of war between England and Russia in 1808 forced her to go home in the end, and one guesses that she found home a trifle dull after having been such person of importance in the house of the Russian princess. Four years later she married the Rev. William Bradford, Rector of Storrington in Sussex—a happy marriage, though bounded, it would seem, by her husband's parish. But some few people do get the life they desire, and in 1819 Martha and her little family, travelling in a carriage that had originally belonged to George IV, set off gaily for Vienna, where her husband had been appointed Chaplain to the British Embassy. This book is a collection of Martha's—"Patty's"—letters from Austria, chiefly to her mother and sisters. They give her life in detail, telling about her husband, children, governesses, servants, and the houses in which they lived. Her letters, except for a few sad ones, make gay, pleasant reading, and though they lack the unusual interest of her letters from Russia, hundred and thirty years ago, they give a very vivid account of life in Vienna at a time when it was the social capital of Europe. Martha says that they themselves led a "very quiet sober domestic life," but balls and banquets

there certainly were, and one almost feels that one is attending them with her. One watches with interest Martha (no, her French governess) doing up her old gowns to look like new ones, and one is suitably relieved to hear (what Martha herself does not tell us) that on one magnificent occasion "it was unanimously voted that the Chaplain's Lady was the best dressed in the room." Life was not without its embarrassments. "The Police of Vienna equals that of Paris. . . . I suppose we never cough, sneeze, nor turn a child into the Nursery to blow its nose without the events being reported to the Government! The letters by post are read of course, but this one is to go by a Courier, so I write without caution." Fortunately for her and us, most of Patty's letters went by courier. The glimpses we have of her husband show a very attractive personality. He had a clever, amusing pencil, and many of the portraits in this book are his work. And, referring to portraits, how strangely modern is that one of Martha which forms the frontispiece, with her beautifully dressed short hair. Lady Londonderry's Introduction is delightful, summing up, as in a brilliant little biography, Martha's life from the time of her birth until she died in 1873 in her ninety-ninth year. While Martha was in Vienna she lost her dearly loved sister Catherine, who had been with her in Russia some little time and whose Russian journal and letters were published with Martha's in 1934. Some people consider her the more interesting of the two sisters, and it is sad to learn that she died of consumption in Paris in much pain and, one guesses, almost in poverty. She also was a great letter-writer, and it is fervently to be hoped that there are still letters of hers waiting to be published.

ISABEL BUTCHART.

So Long to Learn, by Doreen Wallace. (Collins, 7s. 6d.)

AS we read *So Long to Learn*, we feel that Miss Doreen Wallace has arrived at her full stature as a novelist. Choosing one East Anglian farm as her setting, she makes it, year by documented year, an epitome of the long-drawn-out tragedy that has overtaken post-War English farming. Here are, first, human beings; we get to know them, and therefore to sympathise with them, before they are driven to desperate remedies in their attempts to cope with world conditions and with the action, inaction or reaction of successive Governments. Edward Bartley, a middle-aged, sensual, semi-gentleman farmer, marries Mary Mayhew, a beautiful girl with no nonsense about her and with generations of farmers in her blood; and Justin Ardwell, a young Oxford man physically wrecked by the War and trying to make a living out of ducks and pigs, falls in love with Mary and she with him. Bartley is Conservative in every fibre, yet half way through the book he is driven into resisting tithe dues; and the chapters dealing with the seizure by Queen Anne's Bounty of Edward's stock are brilliantly exciting. The long frustration of the love between Mary and Justin is admirably done, with realism and a touch of irony to season the tenderness. Perhaps the snobbish and insensitive Bartley sweetens a little too much under the uses of adversity and of Miss Wallace's compassion, but the blemish is not a large one. Here is an author who, herself a farmer's wife, knows more of farming conditions than any other novelist writing to-day, and who has a poet's eye and pen for the restrained beauties of the East Anglian scene.

V. H. F.

Sandbar Sinister, by Phoebe Atwood Taylor. (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.)

The Puzzle of the Briar Pipe, by Stuart Palmer. (Crime Club, 7s. 6d.)
Death at Breakfast, by John Rhode. (Crime Club, 7s. 6d.)
The Loss of the "Jane Vosper", by Freeman Wills Croft. (Crime Club, 7s. 6d.)

CONTRAST in character between the regular policeman and the private detective is a time-honoured formula of the detective story; and on this point the most striking difference between English and American detective stories appears. English policemen are traditionally slow of speech, stolid, imperturbable; so the private detectives must be volatile and talkative—Poirots, Wimseys, Reggie Fortunes. But the American police, if we are to believe the detective stories, are all hustlers, active, violent and picturesque of speech; so the American amateur detective, by the necessary antithesis, is generally gentle, ironic, country-bred—and so we get an Ellery Queen or an Asey Mayo. The latter hero is more rustic of speech, more corduroy-clad than ever in *Sandbar Sinister*, another Cape Cod story of a summer house-party whose host, Caleb Frost, is found shot among the sand dunes, while the party is further enlivened by the finding of another corpse in the boat-house. This is an exciting and close-knit mystery, and the dialogue, as always in Miss Taylor's books, is most lively; perhaps the high spot of the book is the terrific "blind" with which the staid village of East Pochet celebrated the passing of Prohibition.

The Puzzle of the Briar Pipe is another American story; the detective this time is a woman, the famous Hildegard Withers. The victim is the beautiful but hard-boiled Violet Feverel, who was killed by a fall from her splendid chestnut horse Siwash—at least, it appeared to be an accident, but Miss Withers soon dissipates that idea, and got on to the track of a very well planned murder: almost too well planned, really, for so insufficient a motive as this murderer had. This mystery takes the reader into an interesting world of livery stables and horse-racing. The chestnut is the real hero of the story, and deserves the happy ending which Hildegard Withers contrives for him.

In *Death at Breakfast* the painstaking, slow-but-sure methods of the English police provide a great contrast to the slap-dash methods of Inspector Piper in the American story. When Victor Harleston,

collapsed from nicotine poisoning even as he drank his breakfast coffee, Superintendent Hanslet and Inspector Waghorn were called in to investigate his death, which did not at first sight seem much of a mystery, as his sister, who lived with him, had plenty of cause to wish him out of the way. But it proved that there were others with the same amiable feelings about him, and it was not till the end of a long-and-exciting chase that Hanslet and Waghorn identified the murderer. The mystery is not a very baffling one; I was about a hundred pages ahead of the police in guessing the answer, though not, of course, of Dr. Priestley, who, sitting among his test-tubes in Westbourne Terrace, always knows the answer almost before the crime is committed.

The Loss of the "Jane Vosper" is, of its kind, a flawless detective story. There is nothing sensational about this investigation of Chief Inspector French's; after the first chapter, a magnificent description of the inexplicable sinking of a ship, almost Conrad-like in its quality

of restraint in the description of sea peril, the rest of the book is the detailed dry routine of crime investigation, with no drama of dialogue and characterisation. This book will appeal to those who love the fact, the technical and authentic fact, the loving detail; it is a brilliant puzzle for the detective-story highbrows and purists.

A SELECTION FOR THE LIBRARY LIST.

OIL PAINT AND GREASE PAINT, by Dame Laura Knight (Nicholson and Watson, 21s.); NANDA DEVI, by Eric Shipton (Hodder and Stoughton, 15s.); WOODCOCK AND SNIPE, by T. W. Seigne and E. C. Keith (Allan, 5s.); DINING OUT, by Ambrose Heath (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 2s. 6d.). Fiction: SOUTH RIDING, by Winfred Holtby (Collins, 8s.); MARCHING MINSTREL, by Violet Campbell (Murray, 7s. 6d.); SO LONG TO LEARN, by Doreen Wallace (Collins, 7s. 6d.).

AT THE THEATRE SENSE AND SATISFACTION

"PROMISE," M. Henry Bernstein's new play, reminds one that a play is an I.O.U. handed by the author to the public with the intimation that they must look to the actors for payment. How far this is good in a court of law I do not know; it is watertight aesthetics. "Promise" is exactly this kind of play, for it demands to be acted up to the hilt, and the actors at the Shaftesbury Theatre meet that demand in full. Thérèse has been married twice. Her first husband was some wild artistic fellow who gave her the mouse-like Catherine for a daughter. Her second husband is a sobersides who has given her the volatile Solange. And what do you know about that?—as our American friends say. Incidentally I wish somebody would tell me whether any French girl has ever been called Solange except on the stage, where the name reeks of Georges Ohnet—always providing I am not thinking of Emile Augier. Talking of names, there is a butler called "Goosestarve," and really I am astonished that in a production every atom of which has been calculated to a hair's breadth the butler has not been given a name like Louis, a name which not even an English actor can mispronounce.

There is a young man in the play called Thierry who finds that he has become engaged to the wrong daughter. In England this sort of thing is not so serious. You merely pointedly ask the right sister to partner you at tennis instead of the wrong one, and after a little frigidity life goes on as usual. But in France there is the very devil of a fuss. There is the dowry to be considered, and readers of Balzac will remember how that great giant devoted a whole novel to the marriage contract. In that novel there is a remarkable sentence: "When Natalie had gone to bed, her mother indulged in the pretty comedy of throwing herself weeping into her son-in-law's arms. This was the one provincial thing Mme Evangélista permitted herself. But she had her reasons." There are no reasons in heaven or earth why Thérèse Delbar should weep and fall on the neck of either of her daughters or of her bewildered son-in-law. Instead she kicks up a rare old fuss in the grand high-comedy manner, letting loose a hail of all the weapons in the armoury of French actresses of talent. Now I have always been a great admirer of French actresses, and I have no hesitation in saying that Miss Madge Titheradge in pure comedy can stand up to the best of them. On the other hand, she is surrounded by a formidable cast on this occasion, and must stand up to the Edna Best of them. The great scene between these two ladies is played magnificently, and it is happy to reflect that we live in an age more polished than that of Rachel and George who when they played together on the stage, fought "off" like tiger cats. Did these manners prevail to-day one must think that at the Shaftesbury the back stage must be full of back hair. But no such thoughts disturb the audiences of to-day who when they visit this theatre will see a grand battle of styles with victory to

both sides. That the play is not altogether un-subtle is proved by the fact that the principal character is Thérèse's sad husband, and that its real drama centres in the wreck of his marriage with the brilliant Thérèse. Mr. Ralph Richardson plays the wrong husband very well indeed.

Janeites have for some time past been raising both hands and eyes in horror at the news that a dramatisation of "Pride and Prejudice" had been staged in New York and was to be brought to London. Mr. Gilbert Miller has now brought Miss Helen Jerome's play to London and produced it at the St. James's Theatre. The thing is an achievement: it has a far closer resemblance to "Pride and Prejudice," both in matter and in spirit, than any other dramatisation I can remember bears to its original. There are people who class the Works with the Bible and Shakespeare, and the rest of literature nowhere. With regard to the present novel they can tell you without a moment's hesitation, if you ask them point-blank, who Lady Metcalfe was, what was the name of her governess, exactly how often Elizabeth Bennet was asked to tea at Rosings and exactly how seldom to dine. These, the super-Janeites, will disapprove of the St. James's venture, and one of the molehill dramatic compressions out of which they will make a mountainous grievance is the fact that Elizabeth is asked to stay at Lady Catherine's seat instead of with Collins and Charlotte. If it happens in the course of the run that a playgoer rises to his feet and loudly protests in the course of this scene, you may know that a super-Janeite has crept into the theatre. For the rest, hordes of unqualified Janeites—and this, after all, includes the majority of us—will relish the spectacle of a troupe of clever actors pretending to be the beloved characters against Mr. Rex Whistler's entrancing sets and in the not less entrancing clothes he has designed. Mr. Whistler has had a free hand, because Jane wasted none of her precious time in description; she was much too preoccupied with dialogue and characterisation for that. Her descriptions when she turns her attention to such are miracles of point. Here for example is Mr. Collins's wedding in something smaller and neater than a nutshell: "The wedding took place: the bride and bridegroom set off for Kent from the church door, and everybody had as much to say, or to hear, on the subject as usual." The cast at the St. James's is headed by Miss Celia Johnson and Mr. Hugh Williams, who delightfully resemble Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. Mr. Athole Stewart makes an admirably dry Mr. Bennet and delivers perfectly the famous adjuration to Elizabeth: "From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr. Collins, and I will never see you again if you do." On the other hand as Mary Bennet did not appear and consequently did not sing, we did not hear Mr. Bennet's: "That will do extremely well, child. You have delighted us long enough." One cannot have everything.

GEORGE WARRINGTON



Miss Celia Johnson as Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Hugh Williams as Mr. Darcy in "Pride and Prejudice" at the St. James's Theatre.

CHANCES OF THE 'CHASE



CAPT. BECHER AND VIVIAN (AYLESBURY TO WIT)



MR. SEFFERT AND MOONRAKER AT ST. ALBANS



MR. POWELL AND SALADIN AT AYLESBURY

WHERE would they be to-day?—this thought naturally occurs when thinking about the famous horsemen of bygone times. One might add: Where are they to-day?—meaning the worthy successors of those fearless and peerless men. There are many horsemen with us now, and their horseflesh is no less spirited, but the great names and old-time feats of horsemanship are practically non-existent. Perhaps they are crowded out by the multitudinous interests of our everyday existence, and one wonders what the sporting chroniclers of the future will record concerning this age. Are we to be denied boldly tinted prints, and highly coloured anecdotes about the paladins of our pastimes? Are the present sporting subjects only to be seen as such through the roseate tinge of yet distant days? These thoughts crowd upon one's mind on looking at a series of 'chasing prints by Pollard, depicting the famous horsemen of his period in action. Captain Becher and Vivian, Mr. Seffert and Moonraker, Mr. Cooper and The Pony—they are with us now for all time. Their mounts clear impossible obstacles in spite of every symptom of distress, and the rider always exhibits perfect *sangfroid*. If only this happy band could line up with the field for the "National"!

Let us study their form for such a field through the medium of this series of prints, "Chances of the Steeplechase." First among these paragons is the renowned Captain Becher, sporting a red jacket and buff sleeves. His mount, Vivian, is bright bay, and in the print he rises like Venus from the foam of a stream at Aylesbury. "Doing their best, and doing their worst" runs the caption beneath the print, and so indeed it appears, for Vivian, after doing his best to clear the shiny, is now clawing his way up the opposite bank. Two other riders in the same scene are doing their worst, for one had left his mount on its back in mid-stream, while making a forced landing for himself on the bank, and the other horseman does a little gate-crashing on a grey in the distance. Captain Becher and Vivian will win this race if they succeed in regaining the shore.

The next scene depicts a solitaire race at St. Albans. Mr. Seffert—blue jacket, yellow sleeves—appears to be the only thing in it. He has the whole show to himself, and with great *éclat* and much whip-waving he bursts from a copse on Moonraker. One might imagine from the almost vacant view of woodland and meadow that Mr. Seffert had gone right off his course, or perhaps he is only taking a short cut, but, at any rate, one cannot doubt the fact that he is thoroughly enjoying his own company.

Print No. 3, in some sets, brings us nearer to the scene of our final match, for it depicts Mr. Martin and Paulina displaying their powers at Liverpool. In others, however, we are shown Mr. Powell and Saladin at Aylesbury, leaping a considerable river with any amount to spare, and apparently destined to land in a large furze bush. Mr. Powell, however, for all Saladin's prowess, has some leeway to make up before he overtakes a gentleman breasting a hill to his left. Another competitor, riding a white horse, is already taking the waters—more from necessity than choice—and we can only express the pious hope that their health will not be impaired by this involuntary order of the bath.

We must go to Aylesbury to see Mr. Cooper in his yellow jacket bestriding that wondrous miniature 'chaser The Pony. The little bay may well lay claim to being a forbear of our own Hyperion, for it puts up a most spirited performance to win. The only rival in sight has smashed some rails and landed in a ditch, but The Pony sails on—may he do the same when he runs at Liverpool.

The Aylesbury course is popular, for once again it is the scene for a print and with Mr. Seffert doing his best once more in another sphere of action. Perhaps he is selecting his mount for the difficult test for which he has already once qualified. But the Grand National course would not daunt his flea-bitten grey

Grimaldi—at least, not on the form that is being displayed here. Maybe the Liverpool crowd would prove his undoing, for not a soul watches this exciting feat of clearing a five-barred gate with a fallen bay horse and its rider forming an additional obstacle on the far side. The gallant rider, now temporarily dismounted after coming a smasher over the gate, nonchalantly waves Mr. Seffert on over his prostrate body. Mr. Seffert's impasive face between his mutton chop whiskers, blandly observes the *débâcle* beneath him, but displays neither surprise nor interest in his fallen foe's action. The race must go on!

The sixth print fairly revels in action after the previous episode, but assigns no locality to the steeplechase. However, Mr. Rice and Red Deer (what a name for a lepper!) are equal to any course in the land. This subject shows the rider's cap flying from his head, while his whip arm works overtime like the sails of a windmill. Red Deer, a bright bay, carries his brown-jacketed rider over a terrific obstacle consisting of a flight of rails and a bottomless quarry. Beside him a black horse dives into depths resembling the nether regions, after shattering the rails with its hind legs; the blue-jacketed rider is also precipitated thence, and he betrays the rules of an unwritten code among his *confrères* by allowing his face to express a look of awful surprise. Well, it appears that he will not appear for the "National" even as a spectator—that is the worst of doing one's worst, a second chance may not occur.

A seventh print dispels all doubt as to whether any of these bold horsemen ever finished the course, for here we have Mr. Mason who took a chance on Lottery and actually won at Liverpool. An obvious case of the last being first. His blue jacket and bright bay mount bear no trace of any mishap, for their respective colours flash in pristine glory. The last obstacle, a stone wall, is taken in classical style, with no other member of the field in sight. Numerous top-hatted spectators, mounted and otherwise, view the finish without undue excitement—perhaps the poor fellow was expected to break his neck, or at least to break something, for, after all, gate-crashing was a popular side-line even in those days. However, Mr. Mason, by virtue of his win, merits the honour of favourite for our race: and what a race it would be—the gallant old brigade competing in the Grand National! Now view the result for yourself in your mind's eye, and lay the mental odds for their chances in a modern 'chase—they're off!

G. WALLACE ANDERSON.

The set of prints is reproduced by courtesy of Mr. H. R. Davis, 17, King's Road, from his large collection of choice sporting prints.

A Vertebrate Fauna of Forth. by Leonora Jeffrey Rintoul and Evelyn V. Baxter. (Oliver and Boyd, 25s.)

MISS RINTOUL and Miss Baxter are well known to ornithologists for their painstaking work on the birds of the Scottish area, but in this book on the fauna of Forth they include all vertebrates in their scope and range from mammals through birds to reptiles and fishes. This is a big undertaking, even for a limited faunal area, and the authors are to be congratulated on the manner in which they have carried it out. Necessarily it is more or less a compilation, particularly with regard to records of whales and such creatures; hence it is to the bird section that one must turn if in search of personal observations, and here they are to be found. The long catalogue of birds recorded in the Forth area, and it is a lengthy one indeed, is relieved by such remarks as that concerning the roosting habits of the pied wagtail, which the authors describe as sleeping in the ivy on a house—"we have watched them congregating in scores, and going up with many flutterings and spreading of tail-feathers to sleep in the old ivy." No doubt this carefully compiled volume will long be a standard work of reference for those interested in the animal life of the Forth area. F. P.



MR. COOPER AND THE PONY AT AYLESBURY



MR. SEFFERT AND GRIMALDI AT AYLESBURY



MR. RICE AND RED DEER

THE BUFF-BACKED HERON OF ANDALUCIA



A SECTION OF THE REED-NESTING COLONY OF BUFF-BACKED HERONS OR CATTLE EGRETS

THE traveller in Andalucia, whether he pretends to an interest in birds or not, cannot fail to notice the buff-backed heron, for these beautiful white egrets throng the fields of the low country wherever cattle are pastured. As the car leaves Gibraltar and makes its tortuous way through eucalyptus groves towards Seville, "buff-backs" are to be seen on every hand, and in my own case within half an hour of starting I was already busy taking pictures of these lovely birds as they strode about the pastures in constant and close attendance upon the bulls for which Southern Spain is justly famed.

Everywhere in the more marshy districts it is the same. Buff-backs stride pompously about the fields, stopping frequently or running rapidly forward to gather an insect with their snaky necks fully outstretched. Seen thus, they are objects of unending fascination; and it was with reluctance that, being on a long journey, I realised that I could not spare time to watch them, for here is something quite unlike anything we have within the confines of our own islands. They are exceedingly tame, and admit of close approach, so that it is possible to appreciate to the full the beauty of their plumage. Early in April, at my first contact with the bird, I was hard put to it to understand its name, for the buff-back in early spring is adorned with no such plumes as its title would suggest. It is as white as the little egret.

Its tameness is remarkable, and it caused me no little amusement to observe that in Spain it is not the birds which are shy, but the livestock of the farm. Being anxious to secure some record of the association of the cattle and these herons, I spent some hours in following up birds and animals, but always it was the bulls which defeated me. Just as a reasonable range would be reached, the animals would take fright and rush madly off. The buff-backs, which up till then had taken no appreciable notice of my approach, immediately flew after their friends, and I was left pictureless. This anomalous state of affairs made difficult what appeared to be a very easy and straightforward piece of work, and I had perforce to wait until I found a tame cow!

The buff-back, then, is justly called the cattle egret, for his typical environment will always include animals. Nor is he particular about his friends, and it is as common to see him in the company of pigs or horses as of cattle; but sheep he does not seem to favour.

The reason for this close association is to be found in the food of the buff-backed heron. Unlike his British namesake, he is not exclusively a fish-eater but primarily an insect-eater, and he follows the bulls about the marshes to catch the insect life which their plodding hoofs disturb from the depths of the grass. Nor is he averse, it would seem, to relieving his friends of their superfluous insect population, and perhaps the buff-back looks most engaging when he is seen perched on a bull's back searching for food.

Having seen so much of the buff-backed heron in the course of our everyday travels, we were naturally anxious to watch the bird on its breeding ground. Indeed, this was the primary object of our visit, for what ornithologist in Andalucia can omit the famous "white" heronries, which, with the flamingos, are the great bird feature of that part of Europe? But if the buff-back is confiding in the fields he has buried himself in a veritable wilderness for nesting purposes. For in that desolate district, the *marismas* of the Guadalquivir, are his colonies placed, and it was only after several hours in the saddle under a scorching sun that we got within striking distance of those teeming colonies in the Coto Doñana which Abel Chapman first made famous.

Here disappointment was in store for us, for 1935 had been one of the driest springs within living memory. The *marismas* in April had reached that degree of scorched dryness which is to be expected in July. Where the herons usually nest there were only little pools of water where normally there should have been much. The heronries were therefore deserted, and the trees and bushes, festooned with countless old nests, were by day deserted by the inhabitants they should have had by thousands.

Yet the buff-backs were leaving their traditional home with reluctance, for in the evening flock upon flock came in from the marshes to roost in or around their nesting trees. We were thus granted a glimpse of what the huge heronry might have looked like in the breeding season, for as the birds poured in they alighted in two trees only. Seven hundred we counted—all in two trees, fighting and flapping. It was indeed a wonderful sight: yet as we rode back to our base in the evening, we could not help thinking about the "might-have-beens" if only the whole colony had been tenanted.

When, two days later, we rode back over the *marismas* to the landing stage on the Guadalquivir, whence a motor



PART OF THE REED-NESTING COLONY IN FLIGHT



AT THE NEST



A PAIR OF CATTLE EGRETS

boat was to convey us again to civilisation, we thought that our chances of seeing a buff-backed colony had gone for ever, for up to this year the only known colonies were in the *marismas*.

But luck was with us. We returned to spend our last few days at our original base, some 150 miles from the *marismas*. This district we had already worked with some degree of thoroughness, so our return was more in the nature of a final "polish-up" than anything else. Yet within two hours of arrival, right under the very walls of the town, as it were, we rounded a bend in the hills to find a small lagoon, and—sight of sights—a huge colony of "white herons"! Surveyed from a distance, vast numbers could be seen perched about the trees; others were busy in the fields; yet others were flying to and from the willows which contained the nests.

A close approach presented an astonishing sight, and it was only then that we realised quite how much we had missed in the *marismas*. "White heronries," indeed, are almost beyond belief until actually seen. Here were some two thousand buff-backed herons and a few little egrets, nesting in stunted willows whose limbs were over-burdened with nests. Every branch held at least one nest, and the birds were perched on every tree. So tame were they that they refused to take serious note of our proximity, but went noisily and bad-temperedly about their nest-building.

Now no longer was I puzzled over the bird's name, for since I had first come across the bird in early April it had put on a buff head, breast and back, which contrasted sharply with the pure white of the rest of its plumage. But it is as the "white herons" that I shall always think of them, and their memory will always call forth visions of striking white birds perched in countless numbers on the willow tops, wondrously set

off by the brilliant blue sky that served as a background. This colony was interesting, because it seems that it was not previously known. Before now it has always been necessary to undertake the long and hot ride into the *marismas* to see the buff-backed heron at its breeding ground. Yet here was a colony within ten minutes of a main road and within two miles of a fair-sized Spanish township with a suitable *fonda* in which to spend the night.

It was interesting also for another reason. The buff-backed heron, it would appear from "the authorities," is a tree-nesting bird, and its nest is rarely placed in any other site. Here, as my pictures show, there was an extensive colony nesting in a reed bed. In fact, the reeds must have contained anything up to seven hundred pairs. Here the nests were as packed as they were in the willows, and in one little clump I counted eight nests!

From a photographic point of view there were three obstacles to face. The buff-backs themselves would never cause a photographer one moment's impatience, for they are tameness itself. But the inhabitants of the two neighbouring farmhouses did not help matters by their daily collection of eggs, and it was only after much trouble with a language I do not pretend to understand that I persuaded the Spaniard to leave the eggs in the nest illustrated. The presence, too, of so many birds is an unmitigated nuisance, for they will persist in perching behind the birds upon which the camera is focussed, thereby causing unpleasant out-of-focus white blobs on the resulting picture. But worst of all are the leeches which everywhere swarm these Spanish lagoons. However, one should be prepared to put up with a great deal for the amazing experience of being in a colony of buff-backed herons. G. K. YEATES.



A COMMON INTEREST

EVERYDAY THINGS and the ARCHITECTS



SEA-GREEN DECANTER AND GLASSES. James Powell and Sons (Whitefriars) Ltd.

THIS Exhibition of Everyday Things at the R.I.B.A. Headquarters in Portland Place might have been called, in the words of the President, an exhibition of "Rightness." That undoubtedly is the keynote of it. It was inspired largely by the words of the King when, as Prince of Wales, he reminded the architects that "you are charged with the great and honourable duty of educating the people of your country to better living." That such an exhibition should be organised by architects in conjunction with manufacturers is a measure of the change of attitude which has taken place in recent years in the profession—largely, as Mr. Holden hints, through the propaganda of the Design and Industries Association, which has always included many architects in its membership. Thus is the teaching of William Lethaby justified. Lethaby continuously urged the architects to come down to earth from their clouds of theories, quitting disputes and archaisms; but he was a voice crying in the wilderness. Yet Lethaby was the real founder of the D.I.A.

I understand that originally it was intended to stress in this Exhibition the part the architect himself has played in designing for industry. That idea was wisely abandoned, and the exhibits include all domestic objects which architects consider suitable for the contemporary home. It is a lead to manufacturers and the public at the same time, and if, as it is intended, the Exhibition goes on tour to provincial centres, it will have a salutary edu-

tional effect. No attempt has been made to secure novelty because everything is in current production, but the selection is good, and here and there some very pleasing new things are to be found. It is evident that the various industrial art exhibits of the last few years have given firms the stimulus they needed

to experiment, so that it is no longer a case of one firm leading and the rest nowhere. There is healthy competition in all trades.

Visitors will probably stay longest in the kitchen section—at least, that is where I found the press thickest. Mrs. Darcy Braddell's cabinet gas cooker seems likely to revolutionise the design of that useful but hitherto untidy instrument. While the metal sinks, saucepans and racks will give most of us a pang that we equipped our houses just before the wave of invention began. One really envies a man who builds a house or equips a flat to-day. But I daresay we are only at the beginning and the wave is by no means spent.

Glass, silver, furniture—all these make a vigorous show. Some of the most pleasing designs are for articles made in "plastic" materials by what is a relatively young industry. In

lighting fittings, on the other hand, there is still a notable lack of originality in decorative as opposed to utilitarian contrivances. It is, I confess, difficult to conceive what developments are possible. Probably the eighteenth century exhausted the possibilities of really satisfactory decorative fittings. In spite of its theoretically limitless potentialities, electricity would seem to have added only



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The Thermos Company

indirect lighting, in its many forms, to domestic illumination. Of the fittings exhibited, pendants shown by Heals (J. 27) and the Lighting Centre (J. 42) are pleasing, as are various forms of standard. The most satisfactory solution is still the standard fitted with a vertical reflecting device, throwing light downwards beneath a shade and/or upwards to the ceiling.

The fabrics for furnishing will doubtless hold the women visitors, since who cannot find an excuse to order a new curtain or chair covering as spring comes along? I do not think any country in Europe can show a better range at the moment, especially in rough weaves. I especially liked the chintzes designed by Bertrand Whittaker for the Wardour Studio. But the satisfactory arrangement of furnishing textiles is a problem still unsolved, as it was at Burlington House last year. I hope a better solution will be found for the British Pavilion at Paris next year.

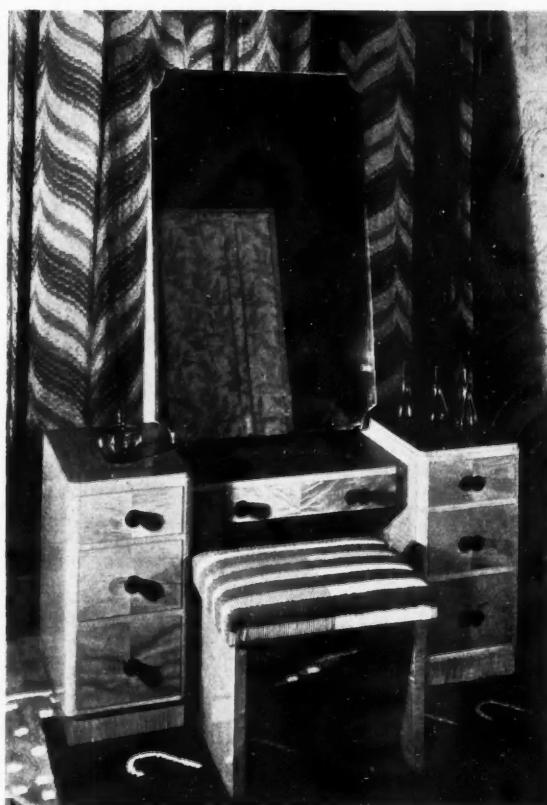
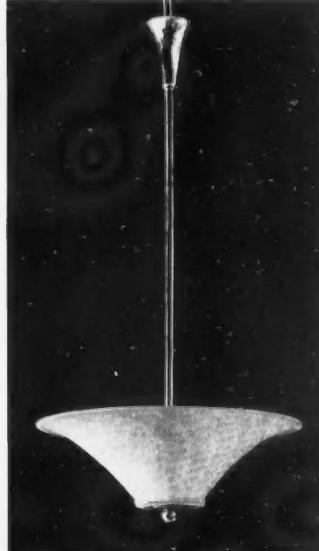
I strongly advise everyone who can to pay a visit to the R.I.B.A. It is not a big exhibition, and not, therefore, too fatiguing. It is perfectly catalogued, and anyone who



COCKTAIL SET IN PRINCES PLATE.
Mappin and Webb



(Left) "R.A." GAS COOKER, designed for building-in, with all controls in front, complete with automatic lighting to hot plates and thermostatic oven control. Parkinson Stove Co. (Right) PENDANT LIGHT FITTING. Heal and Son



DRESSING TABLE AND STOOL.
Sycamore with rosewood knobs. Cohen and Sons

has got any house equipment before them could not spend an hour or two to better purpose. I only wish the architects could extend their influence in the same way to a trade which concerns them more closely—namely, building. I wonder if something could not be done with models and sets to educate Mr. Everyman and the speculative builder who serves him. For it is a sad thought that the renaissance of architectural thought in this country should coincide with the complete degradation of building practice.

N. L. C.



A GROUP OF CHINTZES.
Designed by Bertrand Whittaker and Marian Dorn. Warner and Sons

CORRESPONDENCE

THE BAILEY AT DURHAM

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Some of your readers who know Durham well must have been sharing the apprehensions felt by many residents in the city over the proposed alterations in the Bailey, the charming street of eighteenth-century houses that winds round the southern end of the peninsula on which the Cathedral and Castle stand. The beauty of Durham is so precious a thing that anything that might injure it should be unthinkable. Nowhere in England is there a comparable group of buildings, so magnificently situated, a fortress which Nature herself made and which she moated with the rushing river. Of the ensemble of Cathedral, Castle and College the Bailey forms an integral part; its eighteenth century houses, so far from conflicting with the mediaeval buildings, form the appropriate outer ring. It is a street, irregular in outline but almost entirely homogeneous in character, and the simple Georgian architecture of its houses has the quiet domestic air that befits a residential street in an old cathedral city.

Many people have been wondering how the proposed changes involved in the rebuilding of St. Chad's College are going to affect the Bailey. The site of the new buildings is at the corner of the street, where Bow Lane comes into it, opposite the east end of the Cathedral. One frontage, the first to be built, will be in Bow Lane itself, facing the south side of the little church of St. Mary-le-Bow, as shown in the left-hand photograph: eventually the college will extend round the corner into the Bailey, and the houses seen on the right of the right-hand photograph will be pulled down. At present St. Chad's College is scattered over different houses in the Bailey, and it is natural that it should want to concentrate its buildings in one place; but unless great care is taken, the whole character and scale of one end of the street will be spoilt. Mr. Leslie Moore, the architect of the new buildings, has a distinguished reputation for the quality of his work, but in choosing a Tudor style for his buildings he has been thinking, perhaps, more of the character of a theological college than of the site it will occupy. One cannot help regretting the loss of the old houses, particularly those in Bow Lane which make the view looking up to the Cathedral so picturesque. Their removal is, perhaps, inevitable; but, one asks, could not the simple Georgian style of the Bailey be preserved in the frontages of the new buildings, even if they have to be four storeys high? The charm of this end of the Bailey comes from the gentle curve in the street, and the diminishing height of the houses ending in the cottage with its little window projecting over the street; the picture is completed by the pretty tower and battlemented end of St. Mary-le-Bow beyond.

Poor little Bow Church seems likely to be dwarfed by its new neighbour. While sympathising with the difficulties of St. Chad's College, one cannot help feeling that it is especially unfortunate that this particular site should have been hit on. I am glad to see that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is alive to the duty of preserving the Bailey and has passed a resolution deprecating "any change or development that would interfere with the present condition of the street."—DUNELMIAN.

[We share our correspondent's regret over the forthcoming demolition of the old houses in Bow Lane and the Bailey, and hope that it may yet be possible for the designs of the new buildings to be modified so as to maintain the simple Georgian domestic character of the street. The latter part of the resolution passed by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings is worded as follows: "The Society recommends that every effort should be made to retain for the Bailey its character as a residential quarter. It would deprecate any change or development that would interfere with

the present condition of the street which forms so picturesque an ensemble that every endeavour should be made to preserve its beauty unimpaired. The Society definitely regrets the destruction of the old houses that will be involved in the building of the new additions to St. Chad's College. When its opinion was sought in this matter and when as a consequence it gave its approval to Mr. Leslie Moore's design, it took into consideration the fact that the houses had already been bought by the College for that very purpose." Though the Society gave its approval to Mr. Moore's design, it recognises, as this resolution shows, the danger of alterations to a street whose houses "are of value not for the charm of their architecture only but as an admirable foil to the architecture of the Cathedral and as a delightful feature in the famous view from across the river."—ED.]

the repairs adopted by the "Friends" of the Abbey. It is remarked that plastic materials are "usually enough" for surface repairs as contrasted with the insertion of new solid stone. It should be remembered that there are solid and durable materials other than stone, but that in no case can plastic material in any form be relied upon for strength, owing to its inevitable shrinkage.

The reference to Lincoln Cathedral is most interesting, for it discloses conditions common to other cathedrals. I refer especially to the "outward movement of the upper part of the east gable and wall." The statement indicates that the causes of the movement are undetermined, for they may be attributed to a thrust from the central tower or to weak foundations in the Roman ditch.

In other cathedrals similar movements are attributable to roof thrusts for the following reasons.

It is rarely found to-day that the original oak roofs remain above the mediæval vaults, but that they have been replaced by new structures. Much re-roofing was done in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries in the constructional manner of each particular period. I find, with few exceptions, that the important condition of longitudinal bracing was then omitted. The earlier displaced roofs invariably possessed "wind bracing," which satisfactorily achieved the desired effect.

Most of the high-pitched cathedral roofs are fortunately of tie-beam form. Many of these heavy oak beams have a length of forty feet; principals, purlins and rafters are correspondingly heavy. The roofs are boarded and mainly covered with heavy lead. Here, therefore, is a forest of powerful "live" timber encased in creeping metal moving and expanding, yet seldom returning, from the effects of solar heat, fluctuating moisture and of high wind pressures.

Whereas these conditions are usually provided for in the lateral design of the timbers, there is rarely to be found adequate longitudinal bracing or other means of resistance to the natural movements in the length of a roof of this kind.

The high-pitched stone gables perforated with windows, which terminate the roofs, have but little strength and, while relying upon the roofs behind them, are at the mercy of the timber and lead movements. These gables, as at Lincoln, are frequently found to be moving outward, especially in structures which have no foundation weakness.

Sometimes the end bay of a stone arcade splits from insufficient outside abutment—a failure that tends to be increased by an unbraced roof. It is often essential, therefore, to stiffen roofs before dealing with gable or foundation repairs.—W. A. FORSYTH.

TO PRESERVE A ROOKERY

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—I am wondering if you or the readers of COUNTRY LIFE can give me help as regards preserving a rookery.

When I came to live here—at Purley—three years ago, there were several rooks' nests in the beech trees and in my own little wood

five altogether. Unfortunately, one fell and another was blown down. This year there were two left, and lately one is disappearing.

The rooks still come in flights every day, and several times during the day, but seem to make no effort to preserve the nests.

What suggestion can you make?

—F. J. MOUNSEY.

[How to preserve a rookery is a difficult problem, especially in a case such as this, where, it seems, the trees have become unsafe for nests. The rooks, no doubt, are aware of this and, despite the lure of the old site, will not settle down.—ED.]



OLD HOUSES IN DURHAM UNDER SENTENCE OF DEMOLITION
(Left) Looking up Bow Lane to the Cathedral. (Right) The north end of the Bailey

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"PESTS IN PINE PLANTATIONS"

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Mr. John T. Capron only mentions the sawfly as attacking the pure pine woods now created as such by the Forestry Commission in Great Britain, but it may be well to bear in mind that in this country we also have "the Pine Beauty" and "the Black Arches" moth (*Lymantria monacha*); both species were especially mentioned by Herr Siefert as causing untold damage to the pure pine forests in eastern Germany, Poland, and southern Germany. As the great injury done to the forests in Germany can be seen, would it not be worth while for the Forestry Commission to send out to these areas and inspect the same?

Our respective climates are much the same, and it would be a pity if we live to see the Pine Beauty settling in clouds on our pure pine woods, as is the case in eastern Germany.—M.

NEW TILES FOR AN OLD STEEPLE

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—England's strangest church steeple, that of St. Augustine's Church, Brookland, Kent,

dry weather and the scarcity of herbage, the aphides, or ant's cows, were not nearly so numerous, and the ants were deprived, therefore, of their usual supply of honeydew. The meat ant made good this deficiency by securing the nectar of certain fruit-tree blossoms, and as the blossoms were destroyed in the process no fruit was formed. This is an excellent illustration of the interrelationships in animate nature, and of the trouble that can be caused if some disturbance of established linkages occurs. Ants have also caused damage to tobacco seed beds in North Queensland, but, as a group, their habits have never brought them into serious conflict with man.—N. L. ROBERTS, Sydney, N.S.W.

THE HEATHER BEETLE IN 1935

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—A letter has been received mentioning an unusual isolated patch of heather on a dry knoll turning a grey colour in the early days of summer and later that curious red-brown tint. The beetle itself, on emerging in spring, has been seen to feed on heather tips on sunny days, but to what extent was not defined by Mr. P. H. Grimshaw. It may be that the area, though normally dry, yet possessed, at the period of laying in early June, a small patch of moist ground in which eggs were deposited. It was pointed out in COUNTRY LIFE of January 11th that it was so far unknown how far a beetle could fly or be blown by the wind; but it may be taken for granted that at the end of her flight in June she would carry out the laws of Nature and deposit her eggs in the most suitable spot she could find there and hope for the best. One often sees very small affected patches of heather within a few yards of plants in most perfect condition. But usually the affected patch is found to have some damp wet ground beneath and one of the species of sphagnum. There are several of these, some of which favour drier moorland as compared to the ones on sides of ditches and bogs, the sphagna being confined to acidic conditions in damp places.

A new enemy to the beetle and grub may be starlings, as a keeper writes pointing out that he has observed very large flocks of these birds on his affected moors in August—an unusual event—and presumes they were eating beetles and the grubs on the heather shoots.

An instance of the rapid spread of the trouble is given by another keeper, who observed small isolated patches affected in 1933-34 which were burnt over as soon as possible; but in 1935 both sides of a burn (which rises

CLOSE UP OF ANTS

close to the affected spots) are now affected for some six to seven miles. On a very hot day in late August he saw thousands of beetles on the heather and flying off—the result of eggs hatched in June; and many of these beetles would hibernate in September-October, to emerge the following spring.

So far it has not been proved if the beetle dies after laying its eggs, but it was thought probable, and, as beetles appear to be nonexistent in July, this assumption is probably correct.—M. PORTAL.

WHAT THE ANTS DID TO THE DEAD SNAKE

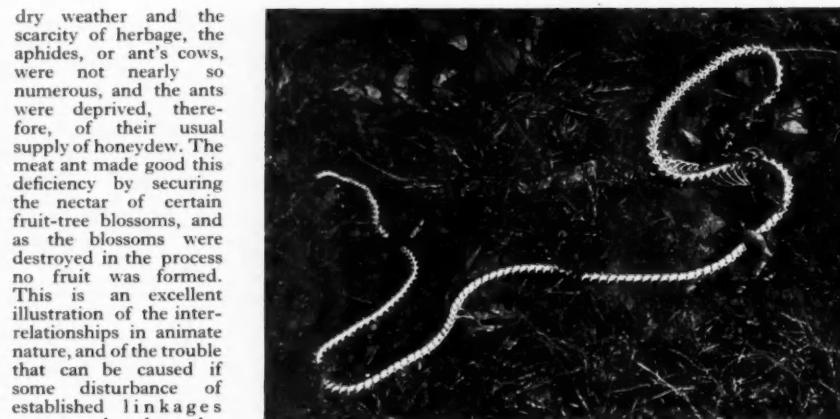
TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Some years ago you were good enough to publish an article of mine protesting against the killing of owls and hawks. To-day I would ask your aid on a matter which is causing great alarm all round me and from farming, shooting and hunting all over Norfolk. I see the danger. I would draw attention, as to the vast forest growing up which if continued will make farming even on good land quite impossible, on account of the terrible pest of the wood-pigeon, now getting out of all control, owing a great deal to the fact of good breeding places being planted. I should be glad if you could spare me room in your paper.—F. EAGLE-COLE.

A SOUTH AMERICAN WATERFALL

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Having recently returned from a visit to Victoria, the British colony on the Parana River, I was interested to see a picture in your issue of February 15th of the Guayra Falls. I was, unfortunately, not able to visit them, but I did go to the Iguassu Falls, which lie farther south, on a tributary of the Parana, dividing Argentina from Brazil, and which are generally considered to be even more beautiful than the Guayra Falls. I enclose a photograph which I obtained there, and which you may care to reproduce.—MURIEL GORE.

**BROOKLAND CHURCH STEEPLE**

one of the best-known landmarks on Romney Marsh, will present an entirely new appearance when the work which is now being carried out on it is completed.

This pagoda-shaped structure with its black weatherboards is now being covered with Canadian cedar-wood tiles, and when finished will give the appearance of a new building, as the wood tiles are light in colour and will contrast strongly with the remainder of the church.

The photograph shows the steeple partly completed, the two top storeys are finished and at the top part of the lower storey the boards can still be seen, to which the new cedar tiles are being nailed.

Undoubtedly weight was the chief consideration in selecting cedar tiles for the roofing, as they are very light, and although they are bright in colour and not in keeping with the rest of the church, they will soon become weather-beaten and take on a much softer appearance.—E. J. ELPHICK.

ANTS IN AUSTRALIA

TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."

SIR,—Ants are tireless scavengers in the Australian bush. This photograph shows all that remained of a black snake, which was killed exactly a week before the photograph was taken. Half an hour after its death the reptile was a crawling mass of meat-ants (*Iridomyrmex detectus*), a common species whose nests may contain thousands of individual ants.

Ants have never been of much economic significance in Australia. The meat ant caused losses among the cactoblastis caterpillars which did such marvellous work in destroying the prickly pear, but it was never a serious menace. The caterpillars were safe while working in the pear, but were sometimes attacked by ants when they came out to enjoy the sunshine. The same ant did an extraordinary thing in New South Wales this year. Owing to very

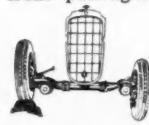
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THE ESTATE MARKET

PROSPECTIVE BUILDING VALUE



WOOTTON HOUSE

MR. ORMSBY-GORE, M.P., has decided to dispose of Wootton House, five miles from Bedford. The William and Mary house contains some good panelling and an original pine staircase. The estate is of 170 acres, and well placed for meets of the Oakley. Messrs. Winkworth and Co. are the agents. (A picture is given to-day.)

WORTH PARK

SIR FRANCIS MONTEFIORE'S executor, the Public Trustee, has instructed Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley to offer Worth Park, 580 acres. It is intersected by the main London to Brighton line, with Three Bridges Junction and Tinsley Green Stations practically adjoining the north and south. The estate includes Farmleigh, the residence of the late Sir Francis Montefiore; the model farm, for many years the home of the Montefiore Guernsey herd; three farms, three private residences, and twenty-three cottages. The estate has been the subject of an article in COUNTRY LIFE.

Bletchingley Manor, Rotherfield, is for sale shortly. The house, dating from 1262, stands in gardens and pasture of 60 acres, 400ft. above sea level, seven miles from Tunbridge Wells. It contains fine old carved oak beams. The agents are Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley, who have instructions to offer Four Winds, Woldingham, with 2½ acres, at the low "upset" price of £1,000.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Coldstream, O.B.E., has instructed Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley to offer Hightown Cottage, Ringwood, a modern residence in 4½ acres, within a few minutes' walk of the New Forest.

"TWO ON A TOWER"

THE announcement that a property in Milborne St. Andrew, Dorset, has been sold is a reminder that in that Wessex parish is a monument which served in part for the scenic requirements of Thomas Hardy's masterpiece, *Two on a Tower*. The point is worth mentioning because the tower does actually exist on the Charborough Park estate. The obelisk was built in 1761 to the memory of Edward M. Pleydell, for it bears the initials "E. M. P." In 1838 lightning damaged the tower, which was then increased in height to 160ft. The mansion, Charborough House, is the Welland of *Tower on a Tower*. The property now sold is Longmead, a flint house in 157 acres, and the agents are Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock and Messrs. Grahame and Down.

Messrs. James Styles and Whitlock have to offer, by auction, The Mill House, Swallowcliffe, Wiltshire, with 4 acres.

Mr. Robinson Smith (Messrs. Harrods Estate Offices) has sold Hurtwood House, Ewhurst, 15 acres. It is a very fine house in glorious grounds 700ft. above sea level, commanding views of Leith Hill. Other properties, at Guildford and Leatherhead, have been sold through the same agency.

Mr. A. T. Underwood has sold and let residential properties in Sussex and Surrey, including Northgate, Three Bridges; The Laurels, Charlwood; Woodcroft, Three Bridges; and 7½ acres of building land at Crawley Down.

Messrs. Gordon Prior and Goodwin have sold Chancellor House, Tunbridge Wells, for the Dowager Lady Hillingdon. The historic Early Georgian house stands in 5½ acres. Messrs. Dilnot Stokes were associated in the sale. The firm has bought, for a client, Whitewalls, Woldingham, a modern residence commanding views over Marden Park, Messrs. F. L. Mercer and Co. acting for the vendor.

MARGIN HOUSE, WIMBLEDON

AMONG the beautiful estates around London in the market at the present time is Margin House, the residence of Mr. A. W. Wills, at one time M.P. for the Sherborne Division of Dorset. The house is modern, but stands in a famous old garden of nearly 8 acres, which was part of the grounds of old Wimbledon House, dating back 200 years. Many of the old features are preserved, including the lake of 4 acres. Charles Calonne went to Wimbledon House after being driven from France; and Captain Marryat, father of the novelist, lived there. Another notable owner was Sir Henry Peek, one of the prime movers in securing Wimbledon Common to the public. Messrs. Hampton and Sons are the agents.

Overlooking the village of Donhead St. Mary, near Shaftesbury, is Donhead Hall, a dignified residence of local green sandstone, built in or about the year 1700 by Sir Godfrey Kneller, the painter. Sir Godfrey's crest is embossed on the ceiling of the dining-room, a fine circular apartment, and Kneller's "eagles" surmount the bay and porch. The property extends to 210 acres, including 66 acres of woodland. Messrs. Hampton and Sons have been instructed to sell it. They have also to offer Holden House, a good example of the Early Georgian period, at Southborough Common, Tunbridge Wells, with 10 acres. They have sold The Homestead, Banstead, a modern residence in delightful grounds of 2 acres; and Husseys, Lower Froyle, a "period" residence with 7 acres.

The Manor House and 40 acres, at Ogbourne St. George, near Marlborough, are for sale by Messrs. Constable and Maude.

Messrs. George Trollope and Sons are to sell, for the executor of the late Lord Monteagle, No. 8, Sloane Court. The firm has negotiated the purchase, on behalf of clients, of the town residence No. 16, Eaton Square, and No. 129, Grosvenor Road—the latter being probably the only one in Westminster with a river frontage.

Under instructions from the trustees of the late Mr. C. F. Selby, Messrs. Fox and Sons are submitting to auction on March 11th, Cliff Grange, Milner Road, Bournemouth, commanding sea and coast views. The furniture will be sold on the two following days. The

firm has also to sell a New Forest property, Camp Hill, Emery Down, Lyndhurst, for executors of Mr. W. R. Ward Jackson, in April. In addition to the beautifully fitted house there are cottages and grounds of about 5 acres. The furniture will be sold on two days following the auction.

REDHEATH AT WATFORD

Lord EBURY has decided to sell Redheath, Croxley Green, near Watford, a house said by some to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and .465 acres. The extensive and rapidly increasing industrialisation of the Watford district and the value of the land around the town for housing are facts to be borne in mind in regard to the decision of owners there to dispose of their seats. It is only a week or two since Lord Clarendon sold The Grove. Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. and Messrs. Alfred Savill and Sons are agents.

Messrs. Jackson Stops and Staff, through their Northampton office, announce the sale of a fine old stone house, Boughton Grange, near Northampton, and 32 acres, on high ground with views over the cream of the Pytchley country.

Chadley, Woldingham, a modern house with nearly 2 acres, will not be submitted to auction on March 10th, as it has been sold privately by Messrs. Wellesley-Smith and Co. with Messrs. C. and F. Rutley. This is the second time Messrs. Wellesley-Smith and Co. have sold the house. Their sales this year include Northill Grange, Beds, a fine Queen Anne house; Camden Farm, Wadhurst, 55 acres; Holwood House, Walton-on-Thames; Corribeg, Seale, on the Hog's Back, 2 acres; Hill House, Cheltenham, 3 acres; Marston, Warlingham, 4 acres; Ruthwell, Steyning; and Bul Bul, Dormans Park, with the residence, cottage and 2 acres.

CARDIGAN COAST LAND

CARDIGAN coast land is in the hands of Messrs. H. Lidington and Co., who are to dispose of the Monachty and Aberayron estates, extending to 2,650 acres. This estate was recently purchased on behalf of a client from Commander A. L. Gwynne, in whose family it had been for several hundred years. The estate is in the market again owing to the sudden death of their client, and particulars are now being prepared with a view to sale either as a whole, in blocks, or in lots, and it will be offered for sale under the hammer in lots in the event of not being sold by private treaty.

The estate is in two portions, one being the Monachty portion of about 1,500 acres, five miles east of Aberayron, and includes the mansion of Monachty, in wooded surroundings. The house is for sale with any area. On the Monachty portion are seventeen farms with good homesteads, cottages, and a mile of trout fishing. Aberayron estate is 1,100 acres, with seven excellent farms, twenty accommodation holdings, comprising some of the best grazing land in Cardiganshire, and properties in the town.

ARRITER.

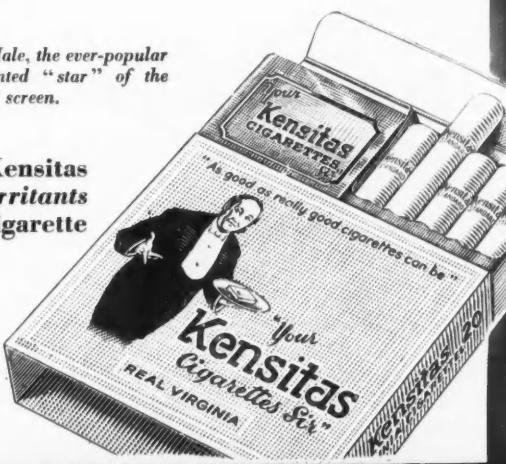


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THE INEXPLICABLE WAYS OF HORSES

NEXT WEEK AT CHELTENHAM

THREE weeks ago, in a reference to certain abnormalities on the part of Golden Miller which were noted at Liverpool nearly twelve months ago, it was mentioned here that the subject of this horse's mental processes was too near psychopathology to be discussed profitably. Most regrettably, since then, Golden Miller has forced public discussion of his mentality by his refusal last week to jump a plain fence at Newbury. This was a new and more objectionable side to his character. His admirers could explain away his failures at Liverpool last March both in the Grand National and the Champion Steeplechase by the fact that with greater experience of Aintree he was taking a dislike to the course; but that he should deliberately refuse a fence at Newbury was almost catastrophic, especially as he had given one of his best exhibitions over the same course at the New Year. He appeared to be going smoothly and well, though he was some eight lengths behind the leader, when coming to the last fence before turning into the straight he "jinked" and went into the wing of the fence, thus parting company with G. Wilson for the third time in eleven months. It was logically argued that if Golden Miller will do these things in the green leaf what may he not do in the dry? And that if he refuses at Newbury he is still more likely to refuse at Liverpool. Instantly he was deposed from his position as favourite for the Grand National, and Reynoldstown was promoted in his place. It was all a very unfortunate affair, especially on the eve of Cheltenham, for the great National Hunt meeting begins there on Tuesday, and Golden Miller should be essaying to win the Gold Cup for the fifth time. Had he won at Newbury he would have been an automatic odds-on chance next week. As it is, the bookmakers will treat him with a good deal less courtesy—that is, if he runs. Everyone hopes that he will, for the race without his presence would be only a shadow of itself. There are not likely to be more than half a dozen runners, and one of the possibles, Mr. Hugh Lloyd Thomas's Royal Mail, covered himself with glory by finishing second, only beaten a short head by Lord Derby's Hillsbrook, in Golden Miller's Newbury race. Royal Mail, who is a seven year old, was not entered for the Grand National this time, as his owner and trainer decided that he will be all the better in another year. He is a very good horse now, and it was only the fact that he was not quite able to give 18lb. to Hillsbrook that lost him the race. Like so many of the stock of that great sire of steeplechasers, My Prince, he is a wonderfully good, clever jumper. When Lord Derby decided to resume racing under National Hunt rules Hillsbrook was the first horse he acquired, being bought for him in Ireland by Mr. Percy Whitaker. This was a good race to win with him, and last season he took the Grand Allies' Chase at Manchester. He can be regarded as a certain runner for the Grand National, where he is handicapped a pound above the bottom weights.

It must be said that, when racing got going again last week, there was some compensation for the many disappointments of the season in the excellence of the sport, which had, in many cases, an important bearing on the Grand National. First of all, at Birmingham there was a splendid race for the Stayers' Steeplechase, in which Reynoldstown was beaten a length and a half by Avenger. Last year's Grand National winner lost no caste by losing, for he may not have been quite at his best, and he only just failed to give four pounds to a very smart young horse in a fast-run race. In the Grand National, Reynoldstown has to meet Avenger on four pounds worse terms than at Birmingham; but there is this argument—that Reynoldstown has won the Grand National, whereas Avenger has never run at Liverpool. Avenger is a young horse in which I have always been interested, and I have seen few more delightful exhibitions in a steeplechase than his winning the Grand Allies Steeplechase at Manchester the year before last and soon after Mrs. Mundy had bought him from Colonel Gerald Foljambe. As a five year old he ran a splendid race against Golden Miller, when he finished second to him at Cheltenham. Avenger is a delicate sort of light-framed horse, who is none too easy to train, and last year there was little in the way of achievement to his credit. He had not run since June until last week, and the excellence of his performance after so long an absence from racing was all the more to his credit. He is easily the best bred steeplechaser in training and on his pedigree is good enough to win the Derby, let alone the Grand National, for he is closely related on both sides of his family to Sansovino. He is by Black Gauntlet, by John o' Gaunt and his dam, Vendramina, was a daughter of illustrious Gondolette. Sansovino is by Swynford by John

o' Gaunt, and his dam was Gondolette herself. Oddly enough, when Avenger was a two year old and was trained at Stanley House he was worthless and was weeded out. Those who like a bold young horse with a bold young horseman at Aintree cannot lightly pass over Avenger, for his jockey T. F. Rimell is a rising, if not a risen, star in the steeplechasing firmament. Avenger will be one of the many attractions next week at Cheltenham, where he is to run for the National Hunt Handicap 'Chase. With Golden Miller in the shadows, it is a little unfortunate, perhaps, that he was taken out of the Gold Cup.

A reference made here last week to the probability of Keen Blade proving himself one of the best of the outsiders in the Grand National can be re-written on a higher note, for Lord Rosebery's horse gave his best performance at Gatwick last Saturday when he beat the speedy Brienz in the National Trial Steeplechase. He was carrying a penalty for his success over four miles in heavy going at Windsor, and made light of it. What was most interesting about his performance was the pretty turn of foot he showed, for he went into the lead three fences out, and Brienz, a fast horse in his class, could not catch him in the run in and was beaten by four lengths. Lord Rosebery had a greyhound in the last four in the Waterloo Cup at neighbouring Altcar a fortnight ago. I shall be surprised if he has not a horse in the first three in the Grand National three weeks hence. Belted Hero missed the Gatwick race in favour of one this week at Lingfield. We should see some illuminating racing there, for Reynoldstown is to run again, and will be straighter in condition than when beaten by Avenger.

BIRD'S-EYE.

SHORTHORN BULLS SALE AT PERTH

THAT the best Shorthorn bulls are in great demand not only at home but in overseas countries, is again proved by the wonderful sale of the breed which has just been held at Perth.

At the sale held by Messrs. Macdonald, Fraser and Co., Limited, on February 12th, a spirited demand was met for the best class of bulls for pedigree breeding purposes, no fewer than fifty-one selling at prices over 100 guineas, while six bulls had the distinction of being purchased at over 1,000 guineas. The result was a splendid average of £123 2s. 2d. for 240 bulls sold. The championship for the best single bull was won by Mr. D. M. Stewart of Millhills, Crieff, with a red bull called Millhills Ransom, a son of Collynie Mandate, which was sold for the highest price at last year's Argentine sales. This young bull was sold at 2,900 guineas, the top price of the sale, to the Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, Canada, who purchased it on behalf of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The reserve champion bull was the white Calrossie Silver Wedding, bred and sold by Captain John MacGillivray of Calrossie, Nigg, Ross-shire, to Mr. R. W. Honeyman of Ballechin, Ballinluig, Perthshire. The price was 2,300 guineas. It is interesting to note that the Calrossie herd, in the county which has so recently furnished newspaper readers with much political discussion, sold four bulls at four-figure prices, one going at 2,000 guineas to Mr. C. A. Linzee-Gordon of Cluny Castle, Aberdeenshire, another at 1,050 guineas to the Irish Free State, and a fourth to Mr. R. L. P. Duncan, the well known exporter of pedigree cattle, at 1,000 guineas.

Mr. Jas. Piper of the Grange, Burntisland, had the distinction of recording the highest herd average for bulls sold, his three averaging £1,050, with a roan son of the famous Naemoor

Jasper selling at 2,200 guineas to Mr. Duthie Webster, owner of the famous Collynie herd in Aberdeenshire. Altogether, the six high-priced bulls sold at a total of 11,450 guineas.

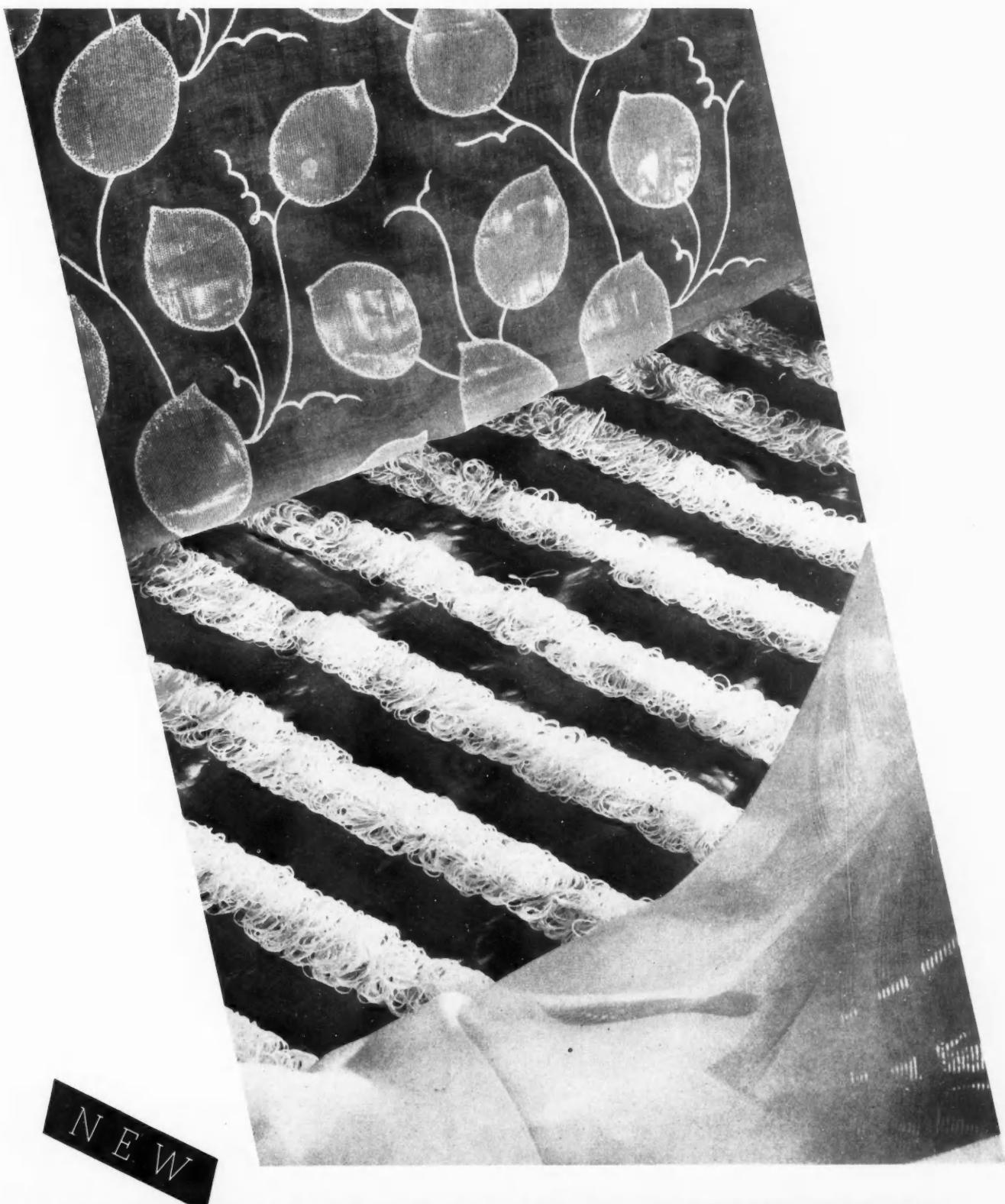
One of the price sensations was the fact that thirty-nine bulls born in the month of February, 1935—that is to say, exactly a year old—averaged £211 3s. 10d.

The sale was well patronised by official sources of purchase, for the Isle of Man Board of Agriculture purchased no fewer than thirteen bulls, while the Department of Agriculture for Scotland were buyers of seventeen bulls for their schemes of livestock improvement.

No bulls at this sale were rejected under the Licensing Bulls Act by the official inspectors present.



MILLHILLS RANSOM SHORTHORN BULL
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DAZZLE REGULATIONS

ON July 4th last year the Ministry of Transport issued the draft Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations which they proposed to bring into force at some future date. At the time I gave details of these proposals in COUNTRY LIFE, and they were also criticised on several grounds by the various motoring organisations, particularly the Royal Automobile Club.

For some time nothing more was heard of them until, at the end of January, the Minister of Transport stated that he intended to impose regulations with regard to dazzle. It may therefore be assumed that these will be based on the original draft regulations, and accordingly the R.A.C. has returned to the charge with further suggested amendments.

In the original regulations, so far as dazzle was concerned, it was laid down that a lamp should not be used unless it was so constructed that the beam of light was permanently (or temporarily) deflected downwards to such an extent as to be "incapable of dazzling" any person standing on the roadway at a greater distance than 25ft. from the lamp, his eye level being 3ft. 6ins. above the road. There was no regulation demanding the use of the device when meeting other traffic, and the Royal Automobile Club criticised the regulation on three grounds.

First, that it was unworkable through the impossibility of giving precise meaning to such words as "the beam of light" and "incapable of dazzling."

Secondly, that it created a technical offence based on measurements involving inches in the position of the beam of light in relationship to the road surface; and thirdly, if it were workable, it made no provision for the compulsory use, when meeting oncoming traffic, of the device which complied with the regulation.

The Club, at the same time, observed that the trend of design and the outlook

of drivers had resulted in the fact that the use of dipping devices was already common practice, and for this reason no regulations were necessary.

Since the draft was published, nothing has transpired to alter the opinion of the Club that the draft regulation is unworkable and would not achieve the object aimed at. It is to be regretted, however, the Club states, that the current practice in the use of dazzle devices has been undergoing a change, and circumstances this winter have caused the Club to reconsider their last observation as to trend of design.

They are reluctantly forced to agree that there has been considerable decrease in the use of the effective method of dipping and that it has, as the Minister remarks, become "common for drivers to switch off the off-side head lamp undipped, a practice which does little to mitigate the effect of dazzle."

That the use of this method has substantially increased, and that it does not deal adequately with dazzle, are shown by the fact that the Club's correspondence on the subject, which almost completely ceased during the years 1933 and 1934, began to increase until it is clear that there is, in the winter of 1935-36, a definite body of opinion which considers that some form of pressure should be brought to bear upon the driver who is not sufficiently considerate of the safety of other road users.

The Minister, when making the announcement of his intention to issue regulations dealing with the problem, points out that he is influenced greatly by the question of safety. The Club considers that when making regulations dealing with the subject, dazzle should be considered solely from the angle of the danger that it causes, and not from any theoretical disposition of the beam of light emitted from the lamp. The advantages of such a point of view are mainly that words such as the "beam of light" and "dazzle," which

have no precise meaning whatever in the mind of the layman, are avoided. In their place the danger caused is referred to, a subject concerning which the motorist is capable of forming his own judgment. This fact is already assumed in the Road Traffic Act, in which it is an offence to drive in a reckless or dangerous manner.

The Royal Automobile Club have, therefore, put forward for the consideration of the Minister a regulation in place of the draft suggested. This reads: "No lamp showing a light to the front shall be used on any vehicle unless the light from such lamp is either permanently, or can be temporarily, so dipped, deflected, adjusted, or adapted as not to cause danger to other users of the highway."

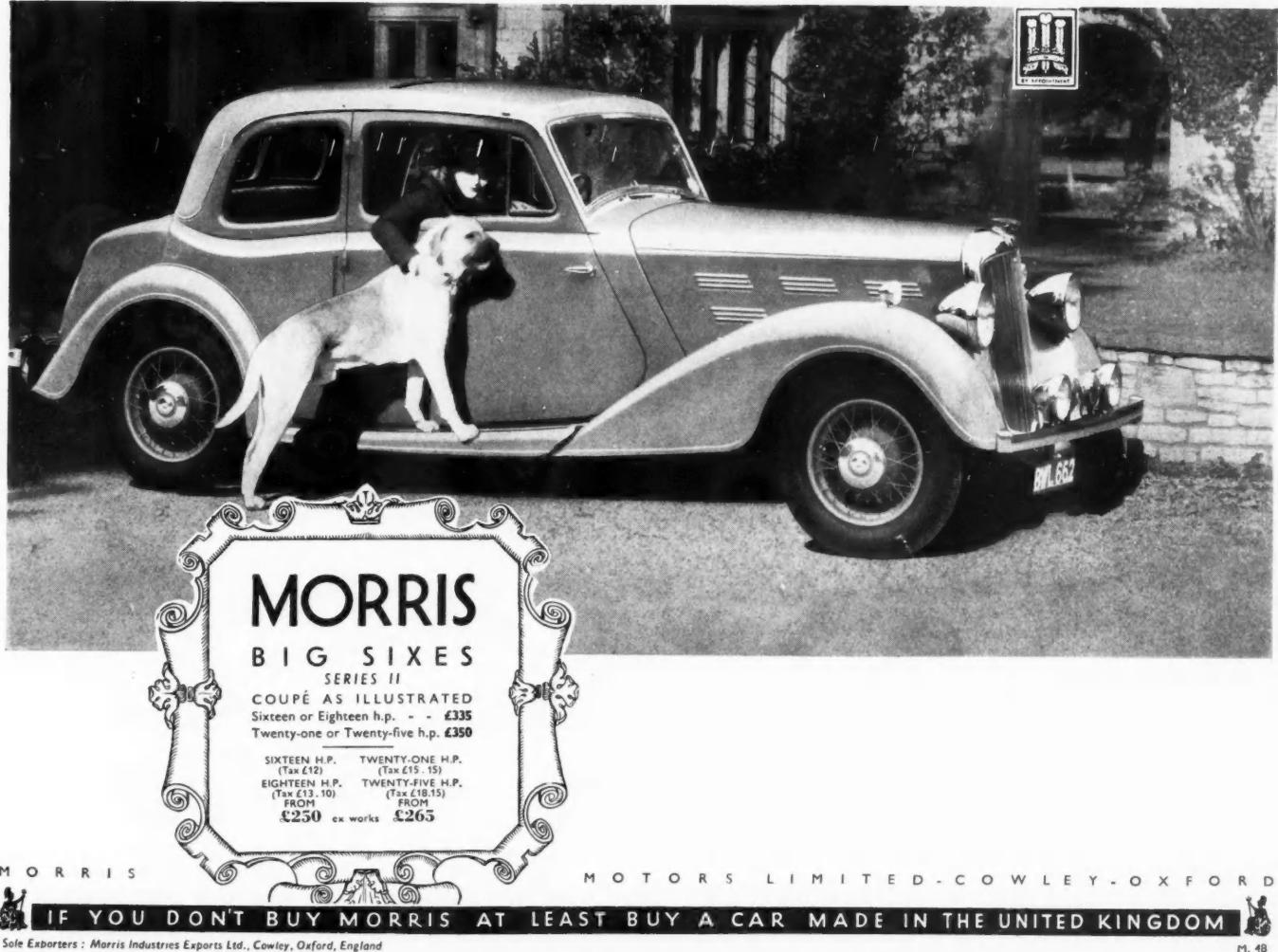
The Club also points out that, since it is admitted by all concerned, including the Minister of Transport, that the elimination of the danger from dazzle can be achieved by the dipping system, the motorist who desires to conform to the regulation is in a position to know that by fitting and using such a device he will be carrying out the intention of the regulation.

Yet a further advantage of the suggested regulation being worded in terms of the danger from dazzle lies in the fact that no particular method or device is singled out in the regulation, and the field for development remains open. A not unimportant advantage arising from the suggested regulation is that it deals effectively with the danger arising from any lamp showing a light forwards, including, what is acknowledged to be a danger in many cases, namely, the undue brightness or bad positioning of side-lamps.

The Club still doubts, however, that the only way of dealing with this matter is by regulation, and it is put forward for consideration that, while it may be found necessary ultimately to issue regulations on the subject of dazzle, a suggested regulation on these lines might be issued to



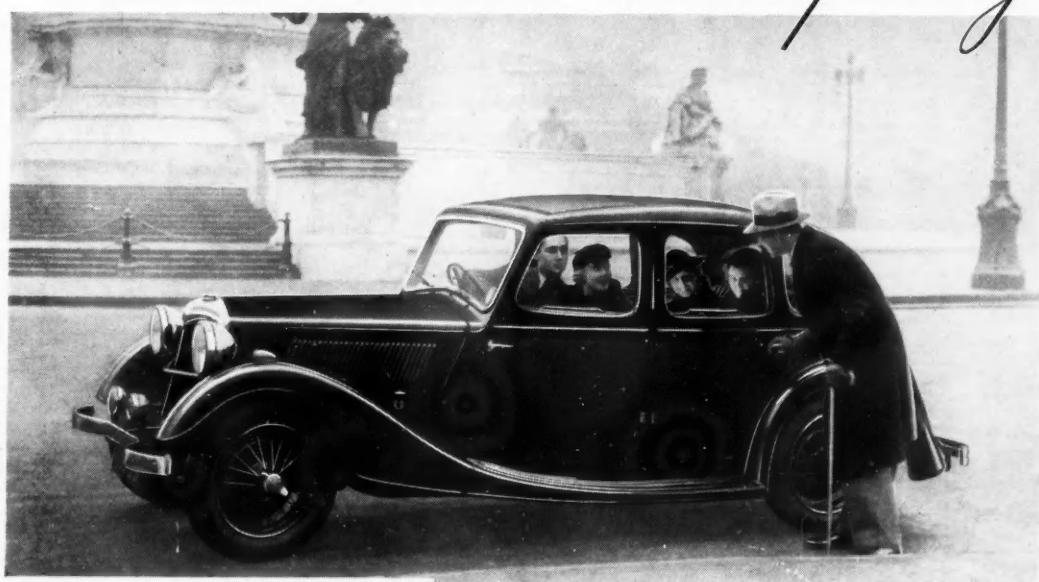
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indicate the Minister's views, and that it might be politic to delay its actual promulgation in order that the industry and the motoring public could realise the position and, without compulsion, deal with the regulation along the lines that the regulation would take should the Minister be forced to promulgate it.

It must finally be stressed that the Club is convinced that any regulation intended to reduce the danger from dazzle should be worded so as to have reference to that danger, and should not be based upon measurements or arbitrary arrangements of the beam.

With this I am in agreement, as the chaos which would ensue with the issue of a regulation so loosely worded as the

original might do serious harm to the industry. Everyone would be at the mercy of the idea of some authority. With the suggestion that the regulation should be postponed, however, I do not agree, as, in the interests of motorists themselves, it is necessary that some sensible regulation should be laid down as soon as possible.

PEDESTRIANS AND CONTROLLED CROSSINGS

A CERTAIN amount of confusion still seems to exist in the minds of motorists and pedestrians concerning the question of precedence at pedestrian crossings which are controlled either by police constables or by traffic lights. The R.A.C. has therefore drawn attention to Paragraph 5 of

the Pedestrian Crossing-places Regulations, which reads as follows:

"The driver of every vehicle at or approaching a crossing at a road intersection where traffic is for the time being controlled by a police constable or by light signals, shall allow free and uninterrupted passage to every foot passenger who has started to go over the crossing before the driver receives a signal that he may proceed over the crossing."

The position, therefore, is that at such a crossing, on receiving the signal to proceed, the motorist must allow "free and uninterrupted passage" to every pedestrian who has already embarked on the crossing prior to the signal for the motorist to proceed being given.

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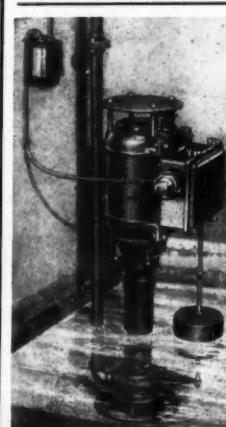
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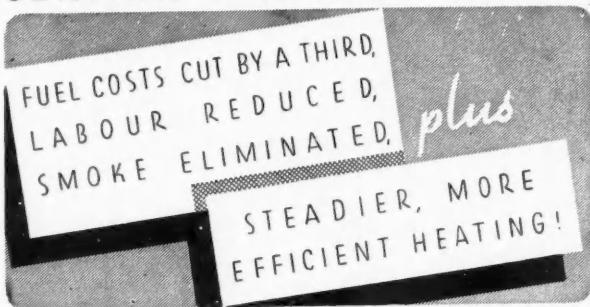
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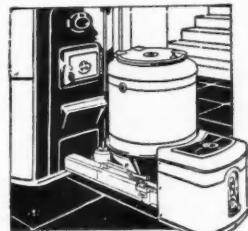
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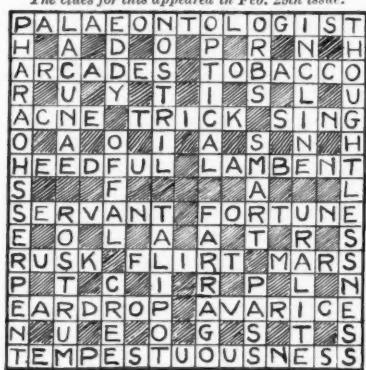
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SOLUTION to No. 318
The clues for this appeared in Feb. 20th issue.



ACROSS.

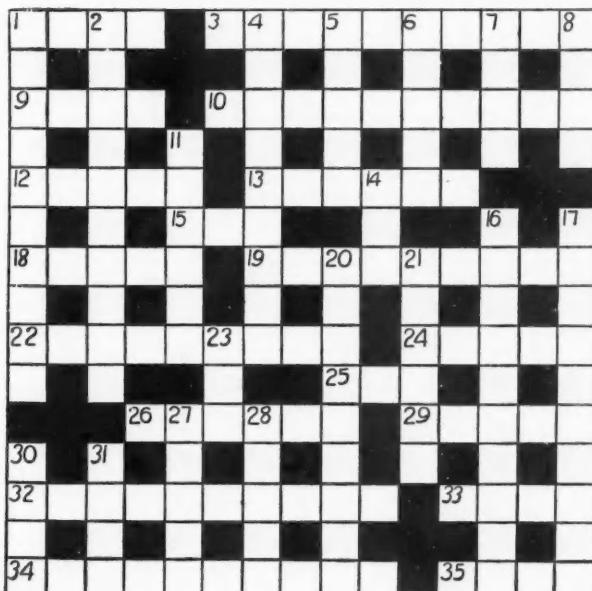
- A home for harmless birds
- The sort of game that would interest a pig breeder?
- The start of 2
- This cake is thin and crisp
- This butterfly can settle between two words
- One of the Orders
- A strange drink
- Put this in front of a Latin city to get inside
- How many a preacher preaches
- An assistant, perhaps, of the Lord High Executioner
- Needed to burn the midnight oil
- The Roman turns his wrath
- A spiteful organ
- May be telegraphic
- Motiveless
- Napoleon's prison turns into his state on leaving it
- A Ras, for example
- You may occupy this or drink it

DOWN

- They teach by questions and answers
- These show what you owe
- Often hired at the seaside
- A background for sporrans
- A river mentioned in Holy Writ
- Bearing
- Not this kind of paper
- Wherein 9 may perhaps spend the night
- An actor's signal
- Fearful
- The kind of person who refuses to take a hint
- Was it this that frightened Miss Muffet?
- Sometimes aforesighted
- A synonym for a duck's egg
- The whiting's cousins
- A ducal residence
- A city of India
- On his guard.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD NO. 319

A prize of books to the value of 3 guineas, drawn from those published by COUNTRY LIFE, will be awarded for the first correct solution to this puzzle opened in this office. Solutions should be addressed (in a closed envelope) "Crossword No. 319, COUNTRY LIFE, 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," and must reach this office not later than the **first post on the morning of Tuesday, March 10th, 1936.** Readers in Scotland are precluded under the Scottish Acts from participation in this competition.

"COUNTRY LIFE" CROSSWORD NO. 319

Name.....

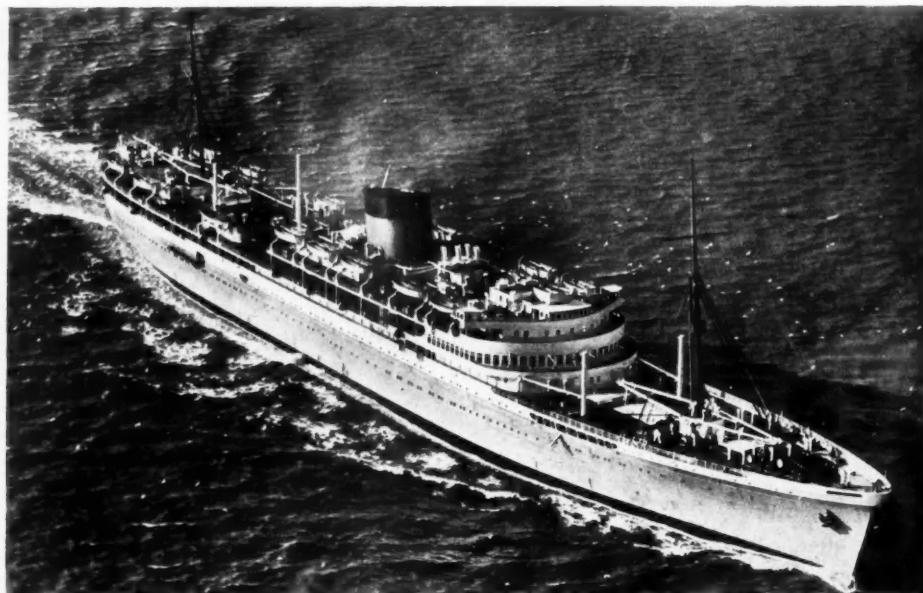
Address

THE NEW UNION-CASTLE LINER

NOW that one of the worst winters one can remember is at last lagging to its close, it is at least satisfactory to recollect that during its course four great ocean-going liners have been added to England's already large mercantile marine. At the end of last September the Orient Line brought into service their magnificent liner the *Orion*, and the P. and O. their fine new ship the *Strathmore*; at the beginning of last month the Union-Castle's newest ship, the *Stirling Castle*, set forth on her maiden voyage to Cape Town and on to Durban; and in a few weeks' time the latest wonder ship, to which Her Majesty gave her name when launching her, will set forth on her maiden voyage to New York, and will doubtless bring back to these shores the blue riband of the North Atlantic.

Comparisons are notoriously to be deprecated, but without offence to either splendid vessel one may contrast to a certain extent the *Orion* and the *Stirling Castle*. The latter is somewhat longer, *viz.*, 680ft. to 665ft., whereas the former's beam is broader by two feet. In gross tonnage the Union-Castle boat has the advantage, being 25,550 to 23,371. The *Orion* will noticeably improve the comfort of the long run down the Pacific to Australian ports, and the trip *via* the Canaries to the harbours of South Africa through sun-lit seas will prove more enjoyable than ever in the new *Stirling Castle*.

The Union-Castle Line, with its usual thoroughness, has just issued a most comprehensive description of its latest recruit to the service. We could wish that the exigencies of space did not prevent us from quoting the whole of this interesting description, but we can at all events draw attention to the more salient features of a remarkable vessel. As regards the first class, on each voyage 297 passengers will be accommodated in single and double rooms fitted with cot beds, and of these rooms a large proportion have bathrooms adjacent. A word or two may be devoted to the public rooms at the disposal of these passengers. An observation lounge of great size opens on to a spacious promenade deck; the Grand Lounge, very large and exceptionally lofty, is beautifully decorated with African woods; and aft of it is a charming



THE NEW STIRLING CASTLE

drawing-room. On the port side of the vessel is the Long Gallery, decorated with pictures of African jungle life and, appositely enough, a large painting of Stirling Castle. The gallery is softly lit from deep beams overhead, which are carried by large pilasters in richly figured rosewood, between them being carved panels depicting scenes of African life. The smoking-room is a most comfortable apartment with luxuriously upholstered furniture. The adoption of a modernised Dutch period allowed the use of African woods for the decoration. Over the fireplace is a carved coromandel pictorial map of the African Continent, of rich texture, and made the more interesting by its ingenious introduction of African fauna and flora. Doors from the smoking-room lead to a sheltered sunny veranda raised above the general deck level, so as to make a popular shelter for lookers-on at the games. The dining saloon, also of great size, is effectively designed in a simple contemporary style. Another feature of this deck is the enclosed swimming pool, in cool ivory tones decorated simply with horizontal bands of turquoise, and flood-lit. The usual tiled floors are, for a change, replaced by Italian quartzite, which is most effective and has the advantage that bathers cannot slip on it. A well equipped gymnasium is adjacent to the swimming pool. The cabin class

accommodation, if somewhat simpler in finish, is extremely comfortable and comprises many public rooms and an open-air swimming pool. In both classes hot and cold water are available in all cabins.

Incorporating all the latest improvements in design and planning, the vessel has a curved stem and cruiser stern, two masts, and a low streamlined funnel. There are four complete steel decks in addition to Orlop and lower Orlop decks forward and aft, as well as spacious promenade and boat decks. The hull is divided into twelve compartments by eleven watertight bulkheads, all of which extend to the upper deck; while beneath is a continuous double bottom which serves to carry fresh water, water ballast, and oil fuel, the last-named being of special importance, as the vessel carries 3,900 tons of liquid fuel. In addition to five holds for ordinary cargo, there are special holds insulated and arranged for the carriage of deciduous and citrus fruits, with a total insulated capacity of 330,000 cu. ft.

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A BOOK ON GENTIANS

WHEN one considers the remarkable beauty and value of the gentians as garden plants and the keen and widespread interest taken in their cultivation in recent years, it seems extraordinary that they should have been so neglected by writers of gardening books. With the exception of a few purely botanical works, no comprehensive book dealing solely with gentians and covering their cultivation, management and propagation, and giving a descriptive list of species that are in cultivation, has ever been published in any language. The want of some handy, authoritative work on the genus such as those that are already available on lilies, primulas, meconopsis and clematis, has been felt for some time, and particularly so during the last ten years, when interest in the race has grown so enormously through the stimulus of new introductions from China and its borderlands. The absence of some convenient guide to the genus has doubtless encouraged the production of the volume *Gentians*, by David Wilkie (Country Life, 12s. 6d.), which has just appeared, and as it is both authoritative and eminently practical, it is assured of a welcome from all who are interested in this lovely race, which will be none the less spontaneous because such a volume is so long overdue.

It is fortunate indeed that one as competent and as well qualified as Mr. Wilkie has come forward to fill such a serious gap in horticultural literature. The author, in his capacity as Assistant Curator at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, has had an unrivalled opportunity for becoming closely acquainted with all the members of the genus in cultivation, and he is therefore in a position to marshal in a convenient volume all that is at present known of this beautiful race of alpines. The book is the outcome of many years' practical experience with the plants and close observation and study of the various species both in the garden at Edinburgh and in several private gardens in the north, like Devonhall, where the race is so well represented. As Sir William Wright Smith says in the foreword which he has contributed, it is a "book written by one who has for many years grown gentians, propagated gentians and no doubt dreamt of them," and contains "the essence of his experience." The author has accomplished a difficult task with conspicuous success, and all lovers of the genus will be grateful to him for his patient industry and research which have made possible the production of such a useful book, which is certain to rank as a classic in its subject.

It provides a comprehensive study of the genus, but with no pretensions to being a critical botanical review. There is no expression of opinion regarding validity of species or their inter-relationships. That, properly, is the sphere of the botanist. But though intended purely for the gardener, it will nevertheless provide a valuable and convenient source of information for any investigator who takes up the scientific study of the genus. The chapters on cultivation and the place of gentians in the garden, will be read with the keenest interest and profit by all gardeners who are feeling their way with various members of the race. It has been alleged that many of the newer gentians are capricious and difficult to cultivate successfully, and are only plants for a small number of gardeners who possess exceptional soil and climatic conditions. That, perhaps, is true for a few species; but, as Mr. Wilkie clearly shows, the majority of the race are not so exacting in their requirements as their reputation has led many to suppose. Moisture and soil are both important factors in their culture. The presence of lime is a cause of failure with many of them, especially



GENTIANA GEORGEI IN ITS NATIVE YUNNAN
One of the aristocrats of the genus

some of the Asiatics; but that is not always to be blamed, and the gardener can well look to some other cause, such as lack of drainage, too dry an atmosphere, or too much sun exposure, for the failure of his plants. Propagation is dealt with simply and clearly, and the beginner should have no difficulty in achieving success in raising plants from seeds or cuttings, if he follows the author's instructions.

To keen growers, the descriptive list of species in cultivation will be the most valuable section of the book. Over a hundred species are described, and the descriptions give an account of the geographical distribution of each species, its native habitat, its botanical characteristics and garden requirements, and concludes with some estimate of its value in the garden. That the list is as complete and up-to-date as it possibly can be in the light of present knowledge and discovery, is evident by the inclusion of several species like the lovely *G. Georgei*, *G. amena*, *G. stylophora* and *G. stictantha*, which are very recent newcomers to our gardens. A further list of species not yet in cultivation and briefly described in tabulated form, supplements the fuller descriptive survey, and the number of species included, about six hundred, gives some indication of the extent and variety of the genus, as well as of the author's industrious research. A list of synonyms of specific names is also given, and hybrid gentians are dealt with in an interesting chapter, where the author is wise to administer a warning regarding the indiscriminate bestowal of favours on hybrids which show no advance on their parents. With the steady increase in the number of species in cultivation, it may be expected that attempts will be made to produce more hybrids, and it is greatly to be hoped that only outstanding plants that show improvement on their parents will be allowed to remain.

The appreciation of the text will be helped by the excellent illustrations with which the book is so liberally furnished. With a few exceptions, all the species in general cultivation and many of the more uncommon members are shown, and these alone will make the book a valuable possession. Founded on first-hand experience and observation, and thoroughly practical in its outlook and information, *Gentians* is a volume that should find a place among the classics of horticultural literature.



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THE LADIES' FIELD

Simplicity and Originality in the Spring Collections

ASILK afternoon frock which will be useful in the spring to wear under a fur coat at cocktail parties and during the summer on all afternoon occasions, is a very good thing to get just now, when the 1936 fashions have just declared themselves. The two shown on this page are from Margaret Marks of Knightsbridge. Below, a sophisticated black frock with loose bell sleeves lined with bold black and white stripes; the sleeves can be worn turned up over the shoulders, as in the illustration. On the right, a graceful dress in grey crépe with a black fleck, with short draped Magyar sleeves.

* * *

For those who are going south and will need thin clothes, there are some delightful ideas in Debenham and Freebody's spring collection which was shown last week. A swing coat in navy blue and white checked woollen had a white collar and cuffs, and went over a plain white jersey and skirt. A backless white beach frock, very plain and well cut, had a navy blue linen coat with big chevrons of white braid on the sleeves. A very unusual bathing dress was in black with a white leaf pattern, and had a towelling coat in a black and white Paisley design to go over it. For wearing on southern afternoons there was a dress of pale powder blue jersey, with a Van Dyck collar, leg-of-mutton sleeves, and a belt of stamped leather, very wide at the front.



Dover Street Studios

MAGPIE COLOURING IN A STRIKING FROCK
(From Margaret Marks)



A BECOMING AFTERNOON FROCK IN GREY CREPE
(From Margaret Marks)

A most interesting feature of the Jaeger collection which was shown last week was the tennis dresses designed for Jaeger by Miss Dorothy Round. One plain white tennis frock was in light-weight wool, a very good idea for spring tennis; it had a square neck, and pleats in the back of the bodice as well as in the skirt, to give perfect freedom of movement. Another dress in white linen was double-breasted and had a plain turn-down collar. The collection also included some very attractive hand-knitted cardigans in cheerful colours, with hand-knitted socks to match.

* * *

Notable points about Victor Stiebel's lovely collection were a strong Chinese inspiration, the use of amusingly printed silks (designs of aeroplanes and ducks and little dancing figures) for tailored suits, and the use of butterflies for hair ornaments and buttonholes. A dark purplish blue silk suit had a design of tiny aeroplanes in brightest cyclamen, with an organza blouse of the same colour and a little Flemish cap with a veil and flowers. Another suit of light tweed was green, and had a waistcoat of black velvet embroidered with gay red and white flowers.

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FASHIONS in FABRICS for the SPRING and SUMMER

THE consideration shown by His Majesty in not ordering a long period—or, indeed, any definite period—of national mourning has ensured that the many trades which are affected by fashion will not suffer loss or produce unemployment. Ascot is definitely not to be a "Black Ascot"; and there is no reason why those who are not affected by Court mourning should not wear any colours which best become them. Nevertheless, in the month of February many women discovered that black, grey and purple, the mourning colours, were as becoming as they were suitable to their feelings, and it seems likely, from the spring collections, that these colours, especially grey, will be the favourite ones of 1936. Grey is a fascinating colour, both in itself and in combination with almost any other; it is equally suitable for the morning, in flannel, for the afternoon, in crêpe or cloqué; and for the evening, in chiffon or satin. Purple, in all the shades from palest cyclamen to deepest violet, is also very popular now, and is perhaps more universally becoming than grey. The chief colour inspirations besides these come from the Chinese Exhibition; the subtle whites and celadon greens and *sang de bœuf* red and underglaze blue of the Chinese porcelain have been faithfully reproduced in the new textiles. Beautiful as they are, these colours are not easy to wear, for their subtlety, their understatement, their fastidiousness, demand a perfected simplicity in line and accessories which is rather hard to keep up.

One great fabric fashion which we owe to the Chinese Exhibition is the craze for prints. The varieties of printed materials are endless: not the big, sprawling patterns of previous years, but small and scattered designs, often symbolic or realistic—clock dials, flags, aeroplanes, bicycles, balloons; butterflies, animals, mandarins, signatures, Chinese characters expressing a prayer for longevity or prosperity; stiff little bunches of flowers, and

separate blooms, clover, strawberry leaves, thistledown, ivy leaves. These printed materials are used for suits, for afternoon frocks, for tailored dinner dresses. Many of them have a light or bright design on a dark ground, and with these accessories—blouses, bags, hats, gloves—to match the light design are usually worn.

Another notable point about the new fabrics is their surface. Few materials, whether for day or evening wear, have perfectly plain surfaces. Tweeds and woollens have self checks, diamond-shaped weaves, or patterns in the weave like damask. Linens and linen tweeds have a rough pulled surface, silks are corded or have a ripple. If you are having a coat to go with a suit or dress, it is better to have it either in a contrasting



Dover Street Studios

A GOLF SUIT IN IRISH TWEED WITH A DIVIDED SKIRT
From Kenneth Durward



A HANDSOME MOTORING COAT OF FLEECE
From Kenneth Durward

colour or with flecks or checks of a different colour on the same ground, or, perhaps better still, in the same colour but a different weight or weave. Many manufacturers are now making sets of fabrics, dress-weight and coat-weight, with these interesting contrasts.

* * *

The two photographs on this page show two new spring models from Kenneth Durward of Conduit Street, W.1. On the left is a very well cut golf suit, with a divided skirt which gives a welcome freedom and yet hangs just like an ordinary skirt. This suit is in a brown and white flecked Irish tweed; the jacket is belted and has most useful pockets. The overcoat, which would be excellent for travelling or motoring, is in khaki fleece, and has stitched cuffs and a rounded collar.

* * *

An interesting choice of colours was the chief feature of Norman Hartnell's spring collection, which was shown this week. Besides the black, grey and purple which form so large a part of every collection, there was a notable amount of blues—zenith and powder and turquoise blues, used with white or cyclamen or in one case most effectively with primrose yellow in an evening dress of that colour embroidered in a Chinese design with pale blue. There were no red dresses in the collection, and hardly any yellow. Printed silks played an important part; one very original evening dress of white ciré had a design of cherry-coloured ribbons and doves in pale blue, and a dress in palest Wedgwood blue *peau d'ange* had a little satin jacket printed in a tulip design of dark blue, pale blue and white. A tucked black tulle evening dress had long leg-of-mutton sleeves with ruchings round the wrist and on the skirt; while a black ciré evening dress had a loose knitted coat of coarse black wool over it.

CATHARINE HAYTER.

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